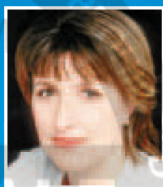


Just Jane



JANE O'GORMAN SOLVES YOUR PROBLEMS TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Lover's Xmas blues

I'VE been having an affair with a married man for seven months. Now I don't know how I'm going to get through Christmas.

We normally meet four times a week and I keep busy on the other nights.

But I won't be able to see him for about 10 days and that's the longest since we met.

In the summer he didn't go away with his family for a holiday but said that he had to work. We spent an idyllic week together.

But at Christmas he can't make that excuse.

We really love each other, so do you think that I'll still be in the same position next year, or will he leave her?

JANE SAYS: I don't think he has any intention of leaving his wife and family.

And why should he? He's got you for excitement and his wife for a family life...in fact he's got it all.

At the same time you have got nothing except a few stolen moments.

I doubt very much that he'll leave his wife.

And unless you can bear the holiday times like Christmas and know you can't actually go anywhere together, you'll have to weigh up whether it's worth being with him in the long run.

MY LESBIAN SEX DREAMS

I'VE been with my bloke for five years now and it's the longest time I've ever been with one person.

I've never cheated on him, but now I'm finding our love life really boring.

It's just the same old thing every other night.

He rolls towards me in bed and says: "How about it?"

I always say "Great", and then he starts to fondle me for about five minutes before leaping on top.

Afterwards he says "You're gorgeous", I say "Thanks" and then he

rolls off and goes to sleep. I've tried to inject some excitement into it, but he won't do anything adventurous, and I'm only talking about different positions.

So I've now started to think about touching and being touched by other women.

As soon as I get into bed I shut my eyes and start to fantasise about being naked with two or three other women who touch, kiss and lick me.

It certainly gets me excited, but I'm getting worried that I should be

thinking about other guys instead.

I haven't told my boyfriend about this, and I wonder if I should.

JANE SAYS: Don't worry about it and don't feel you have to confess.

Your fantasies are your own business and you shouldn't feel guilty about them.

It's quite natural to let your mind wander and the fact that you are thinking about other women doesn't mean you're a lesbian.

Frankly if it makes you

excited, then great, because your sex life sounds dire, so it's no wonder that your mind has found something sensual to focus on.

Although you've tried to get your boyfriend going he doesn't seem very receptive, whatever you do.

I think you are just going to have to make him see that there's more to making love than the same old thing every night.

Listen to my relevant advice line and insist that he shapes up.

Slob wife is big turn-off

I GOT married last year and it was the biggest mistake I've ever made.

I'd split up with my previous girlfriend because she got a job in Australia.

We both knew we could never have a long distance relationship.

It was devastating for both of us, but I knew I had to just get on with it. Then I met another girl who I thought was great.

We got married within seven

months, but now I'm revolted by her. She is grumpy, messy, bossy and disgusting.

She burps and farts all the time and thinks it's hilarious.

Horrible

When I ask her to stop it she just tells me that I'm boring and don't know how to have a laugh.

She wasn't like this at all when we first met, but now it's got so bad that I dread having to have sex with her.

But she demands that I perform

sexually in a way that I don't like and it's horrible.

All I can think of is my ex girlfriend.

My best mate has now told me she's due to fly back home for Christmas and is probably not going back to Oz. I'm doing my best to keep my marriage going.

But if I know my ex is back home I don't know if I can keep going.

JANE SAYS: It sounds to me that you are flogging a dead horse. I think you married your wife on the rebound and now you are suffering the fallout.

You're clearly not compatible and even though you are trying your best it's just not going to work.

You've told your wife that you'd like her to stop burping and farting thinking it might make a difference to how you feel about her.

But it seems to me that even if she did make a bit of an effort, it wouldn't change how you feel.

Your situation isn't helped by the fact that you are still in love with your ex and you are clearly comparing your wife to her.

It's obvious that you have lost any special feelings that you may have had for your wife.

Actually getting back to the place you were with her before your marriage is very hard, especially as you have someone else in your thoughts.

At the end of the day all you can do is your best.

If then your marriage is still not the relationship you want it to be, it may be best to call it a day.

Sometimes things don't work out how we want them to, despite our best efforts.

Brother's girl has hots for me

MY brother is really in love with his new girlfriend but she keeps coming on to me.

When he goes out of the room she runs her hand up my thigh.

I've had to grasp her wrist to stop her touching me intimately.

She has also stuck her tongue in my ear and once made sure we got stuck in a doorway where she pressed herself against me.

When I tell her to stop she just laughs and says "Come on you

know you want to". I don't and no matter how many times I've told her she ignores me.

I have no idea what my brother sees in her, but he'd be very upset if he knew what she was like.

I'm dreading her coming round at Christmas.

I don't want my brother to be hurt. Do you think I should tell him?

JANE SAYS: You've got to ask

yourself, if you were in the same position would you want to know?

If the answer is yes tell him, but be prepared for your brother to accuse you of being jealous.

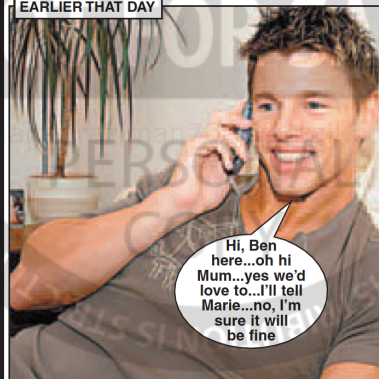
It might be best if you just warned him on the quiet without going into gory details.

And at Christmas just make sure you're not left in the same room as she is and always keep some distance between you.

WE SPOILT CHRISTMAS

Day Two

EARLIER THAT DAY



Hi, Ben here...oh hi Mum...yes we'd love to...I'll tell Marie...no, I'm sure it will be fine

BEN GOES BACK TO WATCHING THE FOOTBALL



Christmas with my folks and Marie - great!



I wish Marie would get home from shopping... oh there she is now

BEN HAS A QUICK FANTASY



CONTINUES TOMORROW

JANE'S ADVICE LINES (Calls cost 60p per minute from a BT landline)

0905 062 2180 Coping With A Break-up	0905 062 2184 The Female Orgasm	0905 062 2188 Having Sex After A Baby
0905 062 2181 Finding The Perfect Partner	0905 062 2185 My Partner Is Having An Affair	0905 062 2189 We Argue All The Time
0905 062 2182 My Sex Life Is Boring	0905 062 2186 I'm So Lonely	0905 062 2190 Loving For The First Time
0905 062 2183 Boost Your Confidence	0905 062 2187 Coping With Jealousy	0905 062 2191 Fantastic Sex

To have a problem answered on this page, write to JUST JANE, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN

It's the business

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything. Mark Twain

Movers & groovers

THE parent group of two investment firms embroiled in the split-cap investment trust debate said yesterday they would not be taking part in a settlement deal being brokered by the City regulator.

The Financial Services Authority is believed to be close to reaching a £200 million deal to compensate investors who are estimated to have lost as much as £600m in the split-cap scandal.

But Imlia said its subsidiaries **Exeter Asset Management** and **Exeter Fund** managers would be "unable to participate" in any such agreement. It blamed uncertainty as to how a deal would affect Exeter's creditors.

RENE Medori, finance director of gas giant **BOC Group** is moving to the world of mining.

He has accepted the role of finance director for **Anglo American** and will leave BOC at the end of next May after 17 years with the group. Medori will take over from Tony Lea.

THE electricity output of embattled nuclear energy group **British Energy** is set to improve.

The group announced yesterday that one unit at each of its nuclear power stations, **Hartlepool** and **Heysham 1**, had returned to service and it expected the remaining units to be back in service soon.

GERMAN firms are falling behind their British and French counterparts when it comes to growth.

Only seven German companies made it into the European Business Magazine's Hot 100 ranking of fast-growing businesses, compared with 33 British and 21 French companies.

The magazine's January issue claimed this was because German companies had lost the will to win.

MARTIN Read, the chief executive of **LogicaCMG**, the IT consultancy and text message software firm, has promoted **Jim McKenna** to be his chief operating officer. McKenna, who was already on the main board as UK and Ireland chief executive, takes over the day-to-day running of the whole group.

THE DEALER

HOT GOSSIP

BID favourite Durex condom maker **SSL International** eased 3p to 275p yesterday despite suggestions it could be on the shopping list of **German cosmetics group Beiersdorf**. Traders noted the recent fundraising as a signal that an acquisition was on the cards.

Rebels end MyTravel fight

MYTRAVEL's controversial £800 million debt restructuring to secure the company's future will go ahead after it struck a last-minute deal with rebel bondholders.

The bondholders accepted a deal giving them 8% of the company post-restructuring

late on Sunday night, just hours ahead of the two sides clashing in the High Court over the rescue package.

MyTravel, the former **Airtours**, offered bondholders 8% in November under plans for a "consensual restructuring". But the bondholders, led

by **Societe Generale**, **Lehman Brothers**, **Fidelity Investments** and **New Star** decided to contest the restructuring, arguing it compromised their rights.

Bondholders will meet to approve the compromise deal on December 29.

WHO'S DEALING

SHARES in property group **Slough Estates** firmed 4p to 515.5p yesterday after chief executive Ian Coull topped up his holding. Coull picked up 10,000 shares at 512p to increase his stake to 28.327. Finance director **Richard Kingston** exercised options over 96,853 shares.

Sharks hunted

LENDERS IN PROBE

by TONY LEONARD

BRITAIN'S £2 billion door-to-door lending industry is under investigation.

The Competition Commission yesterday began checks into whether hundreds of thousands of people have been overcharged for their loans.

The Office of Fair Trading said it had decided to refer to the home credit industry for further investigation after its own inquiries - and complaints it had received - made it suspect there was not enough competition.

There are 500 home loan suppliers but 70% of the market's hogged by four firms. The biggest player is **Provident Financial**, dominating nearly half of the market. The other three are **Cattles**, **London Scottish Bank** and **S&U**.

Trouble

The OFT said: "Competition among home credit lenders appears to be restricted, with lenders having limited incentive to compete on price or to attempt to win business by taking over other lenders' loans."

This is partly because people who take out loans are often in financial trouble and so in a poor bargaining position, the OFT said.

They also have difficulty in shopping around to compare the deals they are being offered.

Competition can also be restricted by collectors building up relationships with customers, making them unlikely to switch lenders.

About one in 20 adults took out a home loan last year and in all borrowers owe about £2 billion in home loans.

These tend to be small cash sums, around £200.



Tasty deal for Diageo

DIAGEO, the owner of Smirnoff vodka, Johnnie Walker whisky and Guinness, has glugged down **Upmarket American wine maker Chalone** in a deal worth \$260 million (£134m).

The drinks giant believes the vineyard will fit in with existing US wine operations, which, like Chalone, are based in the world-famous Napa Valley wine region in California.

Its shares rose 3p to 731.5p.

Furse takes stock of bid

A BIDDING war is expected to erupt over the **London Stock Exchange**.

Rival group **Euronext** confirmed it was considering a counter offer to **Deutsche Boerse's** £1.35 billion bid.

The LSE's shares rocketed by 23.75p to 579.75p amid fevered market speculation the company could eventually fall into foreign hands for as much as 600p a share, a value of £1.53 billion.

It has been suggested Euronext is prepared to offer £1.4 billion, although some analysts believe the group might struggle to raise the funds.

Euronext chief executive **Jean Francois Theodore** and **Deutsche Boerse** boss **Werner Seifert** are to meet their LSE counterpart **Clara Furse** today.

Hostile

But a bidding war, should one happen, will not start until the new year, unless **Deutsche Boerse** launches a hostile bid before then.

Furse is believed to be in "listening mode" and keen to know what the two sides can offer the LSE's customers and shareholders.

Theodore is expected to stress the similar ways his company and the LSE are organised means Euronext can extract more savings and generate more revenues from a tie up.

Frankfurt stock market owner **Deutsche Boerse** is thought to have the deeper pockets.

COMMUTERS are returning to the rail network after the Hatfield disaster. **National Express** said yesterday.

It reported a 5% hike in passenger numbers in the year.

The firm, which runs **Central Trains** in Birmingham and all train services from London's **Liverpool Street** to **East Anglia**, said the growth would help it report full-year earnings ahead of expectations. Its shares went up 13p to 799.

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 34.30 points (+0.73%) at 4731.10

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low			
3i Grp.	660d	+4	686	528	1470	Carnival	3088	-9	3109	2248	2568	Kingfisher	307	+4	317	270	SAB	839d	+4	884	537	4718
A.B. Food.	752d	+10	759	562	1082	Centrica	228	+2	230	220	1818	Land Secs.	1370d	+19	1373	984	Sage Grp.	196	-1	207	155	6601
Aldi.	508	-	523	405	1000	Compass Group	240	+1	385	213	7663	Legal&Gen.	111	+1	112	87	Sainsbury(J.)	266d	-	359	242	1050
Alliance & Leic.	906	+13	915	795	2233	Corus Group	52	+1	56	20	4530	Lib-Int	925	+11	935	690	Schroders	747	+8	749	535	1415
Alliance Unichm.	758	+12	765	488	6022	Daily Mail	724d	+4	760	629	3973	Lloyds Tsb Grp.	459	-3	476	391	Schroders Nv	679	-	681	496	2917
AM/ESCAP	301	-2	460	261	1124	Diageo	731	+3	780	657	1029	Man Group	1438	+16	1856	1155	Scot.&Nwcastle	439	+1	444	364	1421
Anglo	1188	+27	1420	1072	4949	Dixons Grp.	148	+1	176	134	1020	Mar. & Sp.	344d	-2	368	264	Scot.&Sth.Engy.	847	+7	849	637	6027
Antofagasta	1079	+21	258	836	3438	Emp	816d	+7	955	696	1186	Mm2	119	-	121	76	Scot.Power	394d	+4	443	350	6028
Astrazenca	1910	+24	2749	1877	1585	Ent.Intns	751	-1	761	499	4713	Morrison (Wm)	208	+1	256	171	Severn Trent	953d	+21	960	700	4015
Aviva	628	+1	636	481	3388	Friends Prov.	155	-	160	123	7733	National Grid	485d	+4	486	385	Shire Pharm.	533	-3	571	436	5200
BAA	571d	+1	595	478	389	Gallagher Grp.	795	+33	796	584	2222	Next	1640d	+1	1705	1088	Shire Pharm.	533	-3	571	436	5200
BAC Sys	235	+1	257	159	1010	GlaxoSmithKline	1182d	+12	1299	1042	1024	Nth. Rock	794	+8	796	686	Smith&Nephew	523	-1	614	439	1434
Barclays	572	+3	577	443	1004	GUS	923	+8	930	713	1237	Old Mutual	131	-	135	90	Smiths Group	806	+4	813	619	1437
BBG Grp.	348	+3	380	273	7274	Hanson	437	+6	451	360	1030	Prudential	451	-1	533	386	Stand.Chart	954	+6	1035	833	4887
BP	502	+2	526	419	1011	Hays	121	-1	145	111	6984	Reckitt Benckiser	1542	+15	1606	1238	Tate & Lyle	476d	-5	496	273	4665
BOC Grp.	945d	+4	949	841	1008	HBO	837	+7	840	663	3333	Reed Elsevier	468	+7	542	445	Tesco	318	-3	318	237	1056
Bovis Group	656d	+7	752	596	1009	Hilton Grp.	274	+3	284	214	1942	Rentliff Intl.	141	-	206	136	Unilever	490	+4	576	443	5983
BP	502	+2	526	419	1011	HSC Holdings	875d	+16	935	784	5562	Rentliff Intl.	141	-	206	136	Util. Utilities	632	+4	634	472	4010
BrAriways	221	-3	332	199	6258	Imp Chem.	233	-	247	189	1032	REXAM	454	+7	467	403	Vodafone Grp.	137d	-1	149	114	3577
BrAriways	221	-3	332	199	6258	Imp. Tobacco Grp.	1430	+61	1440	1063	1271	Rolls-Royce	251d	+1	269	197	Whitbread	845d	-2	853	701	1498
BrLand	882	+9	886	579	1128	Intercon. Hotel	651	+3	775	537	3729	Rio Tinto	1470	+19	1574	1212	William Hill	546	+7	559	422	4848
BSkyB	552	+1	578	465	5382	ITV	106d	+1	148	94	2145	Royal Bank Scot.	1720	+10	1764	1464	Walsley	941	-7	971	741	3288
BT Group	204	+2	206	169	1012	Johnson Matth.	973d	+7	1032	841	1280	RoyalSun Scot.	175	-	109	68	WPP Grp.	561	+4	643	469	3283
Bund	436d	+1	455	405	1137												Yell Grp.	437	+4	443	298	1026
Cable & Wire	115	-	133	86	1016																	
Cadbury Sch.	473	+4	476	393	1016																	
Capin Energy	1050	-65	1570	365	3643																	
Cash Group	353	+1	370	224	5293																	

The service is provided for general information only and is not intended to address individual requirements. It is not intended to be used as a basis for investment decisions or as a substitute for professional advice. The service is provided for general information only and is not intended to address individual requirements. It is not intended to be used as a basis for investment decisions or as a substitute for professional advice.

Will be taken in ensuring the accuracy of the information provided but it may include errors, omissions or inaccuracies. For full terms and conditions, please see the website on www.digitallook.com

Source: www.DigitalLook.com

For real-time share prices and our share dealing service, Dial 0905 062 0973 and listen to the instructions. Calls are charged at 60p per minute from a BT landline. For more details call our helpline on 0871 434 1519.

Source: www.DigitalLook.com

MONEY & LOANS

LOANS & Remortgages



Improve your home,
consolidate your debts
- you choose!

CALL **promise** **FREE**
FINANCE

0800 458 6069

LINES OPEN 24 HOURS - UK WIDE
ALL CALLS RECORDED

Choose a professional - Promise Finance Ltd
is directly authorised and regulated by the
Financial Services Authority

Promise House, Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 6AD

Overall cost for comparison - 1.2% APR for Secured Loans (fee up to 10% of loan amount, max £6000) & 7% APR
for a Mortgage or Remortgage (fee up to 4% of loan amount, max £3500). The fees & actual rate will depend upon your
circumstances. Ask for a personalised illustration. All mortgages subject to status, secured on property & available to UK residents.
* FREE DVD Player & charity donation applies to completed secured loans/mortgages over £5,000 with payment protection insurance.

THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE SECURING OTHER DEBTS AGAINST YOUR HOME.
YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

- Receive a Free £100 Holiday Voucher with your application
- Plus Free £800 Holiday savings & a Free DVD Player upon Completion
- No Equity? - No Problem. Borrow up to 125% LTV
- CCJ's, Arrears & Self Employed with no proof of income welcomed
- Council tenant purchases welcomed
- FREE Debt Solution helpline
- Immediate decision in principle
- Competitive, quality, friendly service

VISIT US ONLINE AT

promisefinance.co.uk

FISA
FACILITATOR

db
Chartered Bankers

Promise are proud to help children in your area.
When your loan or mortgage completes, we donate
£10* to help seriously and terminally ill
children UK wide. Charity N° 1086020

Selling your house
made **SIMPLE**

SELL & RENT BACK

- All legal fees paid • All secured Debts cleared
- Re-possession stopped • Quick cash sale

Call free **0800 917 44 55**



SimplyPropertiesDirect

Simply Properties Direct Finance, 9 Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1TW

STRESS OF DEBT
WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

For a real solution to your debt problems,
CALL 0800 096 8005

*Conditions apply. Fee payable. Credit rating may be impaired.
Payment period will extend.

www.bainesandernst.co.uk

NEW! Quick and easy free phone call fixes it!
"DEBT...Is Escaping From The Nightmare Worth 10 Minutes Of Your Time?"

Truly the easiest way out of debt. We do all the paperwork for you -- you just have to sign your name -- it's unique! And, you're completely protected by our unique famous guarantee!

Call **FREE** on **0800 043 32 32** NOW!
...and have peace of mind by tonight
* Award-winning Debt Counsellor Of The Year *

best4loans.co.uk
UNSECURED LOAN?
Pick up the phone
Poor credit rating? No problem
Tenants & homeowners welcome
Immediate in principle decisions

CALL: **0800 007 5436**

cashloantoday.co.uk
£400 CASH TODAY
For everyone with ANY
Chequebook and Card
0800 652 4003

UNSECURED Loans £500-£25000
Call The Personal Loan Phone-BOWL
0800 929925
www.lasteverloan.com

Personal Loans
From **£50-£100,000**
• Any purpose
• Secured or unsecured
• Tenants & Homeowners
• Consolidate all your loans
Assured Loans
You can be Assured of a Loan with us
www.assuredcashloans.co.uk
Freephone 0800 980 7170

SUPER-FAST
UNSECURED LOANS
ALL ENQUIRIES WILL COME
FREEPHONE ADVANCES
0800 138 0447
(NO ADMIN COSTS)

QUICK LOANS NO FEES
Whatever your credit history
Loans from £100-£50,000
Immediate decisions/quickest payouts
R.P. LOANS **0870 855 0809**

Refused a Loan?
Up to £15,000 - No matter
what your credit status. Any
Purpose Loans, No credit
checks! Be Accepted
01202629417
Written quotes on req. Advantage

GENERAL APPTS.

CIS TAX Refunds
No Win - No Fee
SC60 up to 6 Yrs
& Penalties Sorted
0800 783 4785
THE TAX REFUNDER

WARNING

Whilst every reasonable precaution is taken and references carried out on all Franchise, Business Opportunity, Finance & Mobile Phone advertisers, The Daily Star regrets that we cannot guarantee the services offered on these pages. We recommend that, where appropriate, legal advice should be taken and any monies should be held by your Solicitor until transactions are completed to your full satisfaction.

MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

£4.49 LINE RENTAL

FREE Nokia 6220, FREE Samsung D500, FREE Sony Ericsson S600, FREE Sony Ericsson W700, FREE Sony Ericsson W700

AMAZING PRICE PLANS

500 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK £4.49 for 1 month + 500 TEXT MESSAGES	500 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK £4.49 for 1 month + 500 TEXT MESSAGES	200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK £15.99 for 1 month + 200 TEXT MESSAGES	400 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK £30 for 1 month + 400 TEXT MESSAGES	500 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK £15.99 for 1 month + 200 TEXT MESSAGES	200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK £30 for 1 month + 200 TEXT MESSAGES
--	--	---	--	---	--

CALL NOW FOR TARIFF OPTIONS ON YOUR FREE PHONE

mobile EXPRESS

TOP TIPS ON BUYING DIRECT

- Always ask how quickly your phone will be delivered.
- Check that you get a 14 day cooling off period.
- Make sure you get 20 cash if you order more than one phone.
- Double check you are offered insurance with 3 months free.

WE'LL MATCH ANY PRICE! BEST PRICES GUARANTEED SEE DETAILS BELOW

FREE! BLUETOOTH HEADSET
1 On selected phones & tariffs

£300 CASHBACK

FREE!
• 14 DAY PRICE OF GUARANTEE
• 3 MONTHS WARRANTY
• DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME
• In-Car Chargers
• In-Car Holder
• Hands Free Kit
• Text Messages

Quote Ref: 2112ST

CALL FREE 0800 316 5826
LINES OPEN 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS A WEEK.

BUY NOW AT www.MobileExpress.uk.com/star

£9.99 LINE RENTAL FOR 12 MONTHS

FREE LG U8120!

WHICH PRICE PLAN SUITS YOU?

£12.50 per month for 12 months 500 anytime, any network minutes per month 100 texts per month Peak calls from 5p per minute For Talk & Text quote ref: 21D4Y0ST	£9.99 per month for 12 months 500 anytime, any network minutes per month Peak calls from 5p per minute For Video Talk quote ref: 21D4Y0ST
--	---

FOR YOUR FREE LG U8120 MOBILE
CALL 0800 694 33 33
with your credit card details

www.3phonesdirect.com

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION
TELEPHONE:
0871 520 2880

PUNTER POINTERS

WHO'S HOT AND NOT

TERRIFIC TRAINERS: (Most wins last 14 days) M Pipe 15; G L Moore 6; R Almer 5; K Ryan 4; Miss G Kewley 4. **SUFFERING STABLES:** (Runners since last win) D Shaw 162; L Dace 104; Enrico Incisa 104; Mrs P Duffield 100; K Wingrove 85; J Unett 85; K Morgan 78; Miss S Doyle 75. **HOT JOCKS:** (Most wins last 14 days) N Callan 10; A P McCoy 9; R Johnson 6; A Thornton 7; S Thomas 6; G Catlin 6; G Baker 4; P Makin 4; S Dromie 4; B Reilly 3; E Ahern 3; S Hitchcott 3; J Mogford 3; N Feilly 3; E Moore 3. **RISE OUT OF LUCK:** (Riders since last win) R FitzPatrick 81; Stephanie Hollinshead 78; J Jones 70; P Holley 67; M Henry 46; Darren Williams 45; V Slattery 43; S Curran 42; Dawn Watson 37; A Harris 36; L Aspell 35; A Nichols 31; A Daily 31; M Batchelor 30.

NEW QUARTERS

HORSES having their first runs for new trainers.

FONTWELL: 12.40 Rotherham (P Cole to C Mann), 1.40 One Of Them (Mrs G Harvey to Miss G Brown), Turku (D Shaw to R Manners), 2.10 Get The Point (G Brown to Dr P Pritchard), 3.40 Lufkin (A Hobbs to Miss E Lavelle). **LINGFIELD:** 12.20 Icanishiff (S Dow to T M Jones), 12.50 Fida (D Wachman (nr) to M Morrison), 1.20 Savoy Chapel (J A Osborne to A Carroll), 1.50 Queenstown (B Meahan to B Pearce), 2.20 Hoo Bleu (Dee K Kirk to T Kestley), 2.50 Strider (Sir M Stoute to P Evans), 3.20 Gold Guest (P Evans to J Hetherington). **SOUTHWELL:** 1.00 Catchabird (Mrs A Naughton (nr) to K Wingrove), 1.30 El Pedro (N Berry to R Harris), Minibule (M Pipe to N Wilson), Molly's Secret (G Cox to Miss S Wilson), Rumour Mill (N Berry to R Harris), 2.00 Lane Marshall (M Sweeney to J O'Reilly), 2.30 Tappit (N Berry to R Harris), Arogant Prince (J Pearce to C Dore), Attorney (D Shaw to R Harris), Petana (M Dods to R P Elliott), 3.00 Jungle Lion (J A Harris to J R Norton), Cooftree Jade (N Berry to R Harris), 3.30 Scrology (N Holden (nr) to G Prodromou).

DROP IN CLASS

FONTWELL: 12.40 Matthew Muroto down 2, 3.40 Party Games down 2, Green Gamble down 2. **LINGFIELD:** 12.20 Cashel Queen down 2, Coronado Forest down 2, 3.20 Grand Ideas down 2. **SOUTHWELL:** 1.00 Indian Music down 2, Lake Verdi down 2, Prince Of Peries down 2, The Gambler down 3, 1.30 Toxusley Bullet down 2, 2.00 Cool Time Eile down 2, 2.30 Henry Tun down 2, Cloudless down 3, Full Pitch down 2, Attorney down 2, Petana down 3, 3.00 Jungle Lion down 2, Dances With Angels down 3, Mandrika down 3, Princess Bankes down 2, 3.30 Walzing Wizard down 2, Hault The Zoo down 3, Albee down 2, Mister Rainsford down 3, Rajah Sultan down 4, Dancer King down 3, Zulugo down 4.

BE TRENDY

NO TRENDS TODAY

BAD FOR FAVS

ONLY 2 favourites have been the 1.40 at Fontwell in the last 10 years.

BIGGEST EARNERS

FONTWELL: Hissar 3.10 £38,911 **LINGFIELD:** Currency 2.20 £28,738 **SOUTHWELL:** King Prim 3.00 £10,978

LONGEST TRAVELLERS

Horse (time & course) Distance
Million Percent (2.20 Lin) 271 miles
Atlantic Quest (2.50 Lin) 271 miles
King Guelph (3.20 Lin) 247 miles
Invier Gold (1.30 Shu) 242 miles
Kentucky Bullet (1.30 Shu) 242 miles

HANDICAP BLOT

GUS DES BOIS (Fontwell, 2.10) is a reliable type at the small tracks and could be up to defying a penalty.

MUST NEXT TIME

TOJONESKI was in rear for a long way and by time made move a lot of the field had flown. This run is best ignored.

ONE TO SWERVE

COME BYE (3.40, Fontwell) tends to find one too good in recent races.

BEST EACH WAY

PERCIPIENT (3.40, Fontwell) has done enough to suggest a place went to out of the reckoning.

MAGIC COMBINATIONS

A P McCoy rides Rob Leach (1.40) for G Moore, previous combination 6 wins from 17 months 47% strike rate at Fontwell.

J E Moore rides Sesame Rambler (12.40), Brave Caradoc (2.10) & Atlantis (3.40) for G L Moore, previous combination 5 wins from 33 months 27% strike rate at Fontwell.

A Thornton rides Gus Des Bois (2.10) for R H Almer, previous combination 6 wins from 35 months 17% strike rate at Fontwell.

N Feilly rides Rotherham (12.40) for C J Mann, previous combination 7 wins from 41 months 17% strike rate at Fontwell.

WILL'S WILDS



by TONY LEWIS

PREPARE for the return of the hugely talented chaser with automatic pilot.

When Kingscliff returns to action in the Stan James King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day, it will herald a sigh of relief from his trainer Robert Almer and jockey Andrew Thornton as his highly promising career has been kept on ice for the best part of a year with multiple injuries.

Few will forget Thornton's nightmare journey round Ascot last season when the left rein broke early on and he had to just sit there bravely, almost a passenger, while the horse jumped his way to victory.

Rhythm

It quote rightly earned Thornton praise for one of the rides of the season and put Kingscliff firmly on the list of potential Cheltenham Gold Cup winners – especially as he'd won the Foxhunters there the season before.

Still only seven, he was unbeaten over fences before the muscle was pulled early on at Haydock in January, sending his usually sound jumping rhythm into disarray as he finished second to Artic Jack in the Peter Marsh Chase when trying to concede a massive 18lb.

But all looked fine and serene with him yesterday morning, despite the icy surroundings at Alner's Locketts Farm, high above Blandford Forum in Dorset.

With a name like Kingscliff, you would expect a royal presence and the young pretender certainly didn't disappoint as he strolled round majestically on his own and posed for photos.

Now it's an anxious wait to see if he can go on the two-hour trip to Kempton, run somewhere hear to his best form and return home safely with the Gold Cup firmly in his sights. "We

have got to give him a run," said Almer. "No matter how fit you get them at home, there is nothing like the racecourse to put an edge on them."

"I'm not expecting to win the King George but he will run a big race!"

He's been off a long time. Andy came and scooped him last week and he jumped very well. He's a sensible horse to train. My wife Sally rides him a lot."

Mrs Almer, however, was quick to point out that she doesn't ride him out hunting any more as he's a totally different character once the adrenaline starts flowing!

"I have lost my nerve on him," she explains. "He gets a bit strong!"

"He went hunting on Thursday with the Portman – he's been out three times already."

"Yet the other day, a cat jumped on his back and he never moved. The cat cleaned himself up, jumped off and Kingscliff still didn't budge." The Almers are hoping their horse can clean up on Boxing Day.

FIVE DAY DECLARATIONS

CH4 2.10 KING GEORGE VI CHASE (A) 3m £115,825

1	0221-1	AZERTYUOP (32)(G,S)	P Nichols 7 11 10	-142
2	1121-1	BEST MATE (247)(F,G,S)	Mess H Knight 9 11 10	-160
3	1111-0	CALLING BRAVE (26)(V,G,S)	N Henderson 8 11 10	-122
4	1111-6	EDREDON BLEU (18)(F,G,S)	Mess H Knight 12 11 10	-144
5	3322-0	FIRST GOLD (21)(G,S)	F Downen/Finn 11 11 10	-144
6	4334-0	FONDMOORT (29)(G,S)	N Henderson 8 11 10	-138
7	5105-4	HOT SHOTS (18)(F,G,S)	M Pinner 8 11 10	-116
8	5022-4	IMPEX (23)(B,F,G,S)	Mess H Knight 8 11 10	-133
9	1222-12	KICKING KING (29)(G)	T Taah/RE 6 11 10	-149
10	1111-1	KINGSCLIFF (29)(G,S)	R Almer 7 11 10	-151
11	4445-5	LE ROI MIGUEL (21)(G,S)	P Nichols 8 11 10	-138
12	1111-1F	LORD SAM (34)(G,S)	V Darnall 8 11 10	-109
13	1111-1	MURPHY'S CARDINAL (27)(S)	N Chance 8 11 10	-58
14	0510-2	SEEBALD (22)(F,G,S)	M Pipe 8 11 10	-120
15	1110-0	THERALBANDIT (27)(F,G)	M Pipe 7 11 10	-95
16	4422-3	TITCHIEVE (15)(F,G,S)	M Pipe 11 11 10	-142

Star Betting: 11-4 Kicking King, 5 Azertyuop, Le Roi Miguel, 7 Theralbandit, 8 Calling Brave, Kingscliff, 12 others

2003: Edredon Bleu, 11-11-10, (J Culley, 25-1) 12 ran

LOOKING DANDY: Kingscliff on way to another win
▲ONE horse from the Alner yard to note for the future is Novacella, a three-year-old half-sister to eight times winner Marcel. Although she has been placed in listed company in France, she has a valuable maiden status to exploit.

▲BEST MATE and Azertyuop were still among the 16 horses left in the King George at yesterday's five-day stage, though both are unlikely runners. The first three in the betting – Kicking King, Le Roi Miguel and Calling Brave are all safely in.

FONTWELL: HEAR IT ON 09055 141 601 (611)

12.40 blues.com NOVICES' HURDLE (E) (11 flights) 2m6f/1f (9 runners) £3,591

12.40		blues.com NOVICES' HURDLE		TRACKER	
(E) (11 flights)		2m6/f (9 runners)		£3,591	
1	2115	GALLERY GOD (19)(G,S)	S Dow 8 11 12	A McCoy+95	
2	4342	AZZEMOUR (10)	P Nichols 5 10 12	Christian Williams 46	
3	2105	BUBBA BOY (27)(G)	M Pipe 4 10 12	T Scudamore 32	
4	2F	IRISH LEGEND (17)	C Roberts 4 10 12	A Thornton 60	
5	00470	IT'S GOT BUCKLEYS (10)	D Lavery/71	D Lavery/71	
6	0453P	MATTHEW MURTO (30)	C Lizzard 5 10 12	J Tizzard 47	
7	ROTHAM (F472)	G Mann 4 10 12	J Feilly 49	J Feilly 49	
8	5154B	SESAME RAMBLER (37)(G,S)	J Moore 5 10 12	J Featon	
9	391P	DONCKERT (17)(S)	R Buckler 6 10 5	B Hitchcott	

Start Betting:- 8-13 Gallery God, 7-2 Irish Legend, 10 Bubba Boy, 14 Rotham, 6 Azzemour, 20 Matthew Murto, 25 Sesame Rambler, 33 others.

2.10		BLUES		TRACKER	
chase course is a		320yds which is a			
TOP TRAP					
35	(28%)+£1,441				
C Lizzard 11, B					
-£127.5, B J Biewer					
6, (12%)-£1,411					
2.10 BLUES					

Star Betting: 8-13 Gallery God, 7-2 Irish Legend, 10 Bubba Boy, 14 Rotherham, 16 Azzemour, 20 Matthew Muroto, 25 Sesame Rambler, 33 others

2003: Meeting abandoned due to snow.

GALLERY GOD should be up to winning this, as, after winning twice at this course, was stepped up in class only to finish 5th when fell at the third last in race won by Montefiore at Chesham and before that was nearly 21st in Diamond Orchid at Ludlow. Bubba Boy weakened three out when 4th 5th to Miss Fahrenheit at Chesham and more of a threat may

STARFORM: GALLERY GOD Danger: Irish Legend

1.10 CASINO AT blues.com NOVICES' CHASE (Class E (15 fences) 2m4f (6 runners) £4,001

1	1632U	DURSTON BAY (17)(F)	S Dow 7 11 4	P Flynn 76
2	40241	L'ORPHELIN (21)(S/B)	J Tizzard 9 11 4	A L Aspell 64
3	03245	MISTER PUTT (35)(S/B)	P Nichols 5 11 4	C Hourouff 5
4	4331-4F	OJAYS ALBANI (18)(G)	J Frost 8 11 4	C Hourouff 5
5	1110-1	PREMIER ESTATE (37)(G,S)	R Frow 7 11 4	J Featon
6	3242-4F	ANGEL DELIGHT (12)(S)	Sparring 8 10 11	B Featon

Star Betting: 10-11 L'Orpelin, 3 Angel Delight, 5 Premier Estate, 8 Mister Putt, 25 Durston Bay, Ojays Albani.

L'ORPHELIN could still be ahead of the handicapper as the fitting of blinkers seems to have worked wonders. Got off the mark in emphatic style at Newton Abbot and then returned to the track to easily beat Prayerful 22 lengths with forceful tactics here. Premier Estate was 4th to Cool Floy over a slightly shorter trip but kept on under pressure so should be suited to her today's trip. Angel Delight stuck to her task well when nearly 41 3rd to

STARFORM: L'ORPHELIN Danger: Premier Estate

1.40 BET AT blues.com SELLING HURDLE (Class G (9 flights) 2m2f/1f (11 runners) £2,604

1	405-106	DOWNTHEREFORDANCIN (12)(F,G)	M Pipe 4 11 4	T Scudamore 42
2	105216	MAJLIS (12)(G,S)	B Llewellyn 7 11 4	L Stephens/71
3	439-21	FAST KING (27)(S)	P Pritchard 5 10 12	O Dayman/10
4	60245	HATTERAS (25B)	P Nichols 5 10 12	Christian Williams+71
5	002055	MONSIEUR DALE (17)(S/B)	M Jones 5 10 12	R Johnson 58
6	6000-50	ONE OF THEM (28)(P)	M Jones 5 10 12	Mess E J Jones/47
7	PO	RICHMOND LEWIS (F38)(V)	M Madwick 4 10 12	R Lucy-Butler/71
8	126310	ROB LEACH (752)(G)	G Moore 7 10 12	A McCoy 47
9	56P44	RUNNING TIMES (15)(G)	H Manners 7 10 12	A Jenkins/71
10	10	TURKU (F39B)	H Manners 5 10 12	M G Tuohy/10
11	10	ZIGGY DART (21)(B)	R Buckler 4 10 12	P Davey/10

Star Betting: 11-4 Majlis, 7-2 Downtherefordancin, 4 Rob Leach, 5 Fast King, 6 Hatteras, 12 Monsieur Dale, 25 Running Times, Turku, 33 others

MAJLIS should be better suited to this trip after fading to come 6th to Cyngor De Sout over 2m 5f 10yds at Yniongbud before that this former Llanazale hurdle winner was 71 to good over C-D for Kaparod. Downtherefordancin returned from a lengthy layoff to be well beaten 6th to Red Society at Taunton and should be sharpened up by this run and also the drop in company. Rob Leach wasn't a

STARFORM: MAJLIS Danger: Downtherefordancin

TRACKFACTS

Left-hand hurdle course of about a mile round with four hurdles to jump. The chase course is a figure-eight with five fences per circuit, and run-in of 230yds which is slightly uphill.

TOP TRAINERS

(with runners) M Pipe 41 winners, (28% strike rate), -£25.13, P Nicholls 35, (28%), +£1.44, G Moore 35, (22%), +£11.71, R Rowe 21, (15%), +£38.51, C Lizzard 11, (16%), -£10.77, C Mann 9, (17%), -£0.59, R Buckler 7, (10%), -£12.75, B J Llewellyn 6, (22%), +£40.33, S Dow 6, (26%), +£25.50, P Hedger 6, (12%), -£16.50, Dr P Pritchard 5, (10%), -£25.75.

2.10 BLUE SQUARE 0800 587 0200 HANDICAP CHASE (Class E (16 fences) 2m6f (7 runners) £4,017

1	332231	GUS DES BOIS (8)(D,G,S)	V R Almer 10 12 10	A Thornton 72
2	P15312	GET THE POINT (24)(G,S)	Dr P Pritchard 10 11 12	A Mogford 59
3	4P25-02	BRAVE CARADOC (14)	G L Moore 6 11 8	J E Moore 73
4	P45-342	MYSON (14)	D Best 5 11 3	James Davie/91+75
5	6UPP5	GRAY'S EULOGY (29)	D Gandolfo 6 11 2	T Doyle 50
6	634U00	JUST REUBEN (12)(C,G,S)	C Lizzard 9 10 12	J Tizzard 57
7	00056-3	SMART GUY (25)(G,S)	M Jones 12 10 5	L Aspell 57

Star Betting: 5-2 Myson, 11-4 Gus Des Bois, 4 Get The Point, 11-2 Brave Caradoc, 7 Smart Guy, 12 Just Reuben, 25 Gray's Eulogy.

MYSON showed distinct signs of improvement when 91 2nd to Vesuvius over 2m 4f here with a long way back to Isam Top in 3rd. That wasn't a great race but this isn't much better. After hitting the woodwork a few times this season, Gus Des Bois finally got off the mark at Plumpton last week when outbaiting Acetab, but was certainly aided by the favourable four out when going well. Get The Point was last seen running 2nd to Dick The Taxi at Market Rasen in

STARFORM: MYSON Danger: Brave Caradoc

2.40 meccagames.com HANDICAP HURDLE (Class E mares (9 flights) 2m2f/1f (8 runners) £3,374

1	32U4-04	EAU PURE (36)(C,F,G,S)	G L Moore 7 11 12	H Poulton/71 50
2	32P-423	HONEY'S GIFT (12)	G Mangerson 5 11 11	A McCoy+78
3	445026	TITIAN FLAME (36)	M P Duffield 4 11 6	P Holley 72
4	042364	FIRE RANGER (8)	Frost 8 11 4	C Hourouff 63
5	50-05	VIVA FOREVER (36)(F)	A Hales 5 11 4	R Johnson 19
6	531406	BAJAN GIRL (42)(F)	B Race 4 11 1	Christian Williams 72
7	P-0130	PHILIPPA YEATES (12)	C G S 10 13	T Scudamore 68
8	050	DREAMS FORGOTTEN (20)	H Padgett 4 10 13	L Aspell 19

Star Betting: 2 Honey's Gift, 5 Fire Ranger, 11-2 Eau Pure, 6 Titian Flame, Philippa Yeates, 10 Bajan Girl, 12 Viva Forever, 16 Dreams Forgotten.

HONEY'S GIFT looks ready to strike after a promising 131 3rd to De Blanc at Ludlow with Philippa Yeates down the field and should be suited by this sharp track. Before that was 2nd to The Last Mohican at Leicester with Philippa Yeates 51 away in 3rd. Viva Forever was outpaced between last 2 when 4th of 7 201 behind Kiwi Babe at Folkestone. Fire Ranger was in touch but lost place 3rd and hampered 5th and, after mistake

STARFORM: HONEY'S GIFT Danger: Viva Forever

TONY LEWIS

12.40	IRISH LEGEND	12.40	IRISH LEGEND
1.10	L'ORPHELIN (nap)	1.10	L'ORPHELIN
1.40	ROB LEACH (nb)	1.40	HATTERAS
2.10	MYSON	2.10	MYSON (nap)
2.40	VIVA FOREVER	2.40	HONEY'S GIFT
3.10	LUCKY PETE	3.10	LUCKY PETE (nb)
3.40	PERCIPIENT	3.40	PERCIPIENT

STARFORM: 1.10 L'Orpelin (treble), 2.10 Myson (nb), 2.40 Honey's Gift (nap)

CLOCKFAR: 1.20 Gallery God 3rd 20m, 1.240 Gallery God 1st, 2.40 Premier Estate 1.40 Majlis 2.10 Gus Des Bois 2.40 Honey's Gift 3.10 Gemi Bed 3.40 Party Games.

GOING: Good to soft: Soft in places

PLACEPOET: First six races.

3.10 EVECHANCE LTD XMAS PARTY HANDICAP CHASE (Class F amateurs (13 fences) 2m2f (8 runners) £3,341

1	343124	WALCOT LAD (30)(B,C,D,G,S)	P A Ellis 8 11 12	Mr N Williams 70
2	014034	BARNARDS GREEN (7)(F)(V)	R Almer 8 11 12	Mr D Jacob/T17 72
3	140P53	OMI BED (12)(G)	B Llewellyn 9 11 12	Mr T D Draper/31 40
4	00P-251	LUCKY PETE (14)(B)	P J Jones 7 10 12	Mr David Turner/71 50
5	060545	ISAM TOP (7)(C,D,G)	M Hogen 8 10 8	Mr J Morgan/51 56
6	4534P	HISAR (10)(D,F,G,S)	P Nichols 11 10 3	Mr T J O'Brien/71 50
7	001143	LYTIMAT (31)(C,S)	SVB R Buckler 7 10 3	Mr W P Kewney/71 50
8	60005P	DUAL STAR (12)(D,F,S)	T Waring 9 10 0	Miss E J Jones 1

LONG HANDICAP: Dual Star 9-5.

Star Betting: 6-1 Walcot Lad, 4 Gemi Bed, 9-2 Barnards Green, 10 Lucky Pete, Isam Top, Kilmat, 12 Hisar, 33 Dual Star.

WALCOT LAD should be more at home at this course after running 4th to Broadchurch at Fakenham, but before that over C-D beat Gus Des Bois (runs 2.10) by 10. Barnards Green and Isam Top were well behind Nagano at Folkestone last week but Isam Top was all gone a lot better at this track. Gemi Bed was in touch but pushed along 4th and weakened 8th to be tailed off when pulled up 4 out in race won by Colliers Court at Ludlow.

STARFORM: WALCOT LAD Danger: Isam Top

3.40 BLUE SQUARE NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (Class F (10 flights) 2m4f (16 runners) £2,877

1	0002-02	GREY SHARK (37)(B)	Kearns 5 11 12	P Feilly 73
2	324511	PARTY GAMES (13)(F)	G L Moore 7 11 12	P Hild 66
3	P5-552	SOLDERSHIRE (191)	S Dow 7 11 12	P Flynn 76
4	53P44	ATLANTIS (21)	G L Moore 5 11 8	J E Moore 64
5	640332	GREEN GAMBLE (17)	B Peak 4 11 7	James Davie/31 61
6	002624	MICKLEY (20)(P)	P Hedger 7 11 6	S Thomas 72
7	75-2404	ASLAIL (46)	Mrs N Smith 4 11 4	L Aspell+62
8	6020-45	PERCIPIENT (111)	D Gandolfo 6 11 4	T Doyle 59
9	665354	COME BYE (14)(G)	T Mew-Nesmith 8 11 3	M Batchelor 71
10	5000P	TINSTRINE (11)	P Hild 6 11 0	S Curran 63
11	240-507	BROOKERS HILL (17)(P)	L Dace 4 11 0	T Scudamore 40

FREE SEX TEXT

TEXT: **SEX**
TO: **69977**

*FREE To: Vodafone, Orange, O2, Three & T-Mobile

1st Message charged at our standard network rate (max 12p) for live ring per mobile number. Subsequent messages 1.5p. Charges incl. vat. For a p.c box 127468. London, UK. We may send you promotional messages.

PRIVATE 1-2-1 SEX CHAT
ALL YOURS FOR ONLY 45p!

09081 410 800

Filthy 1-2-1 Domination
0909 514 2000

Listen to my hot XXX Fantasies
09095 144 000

Chat to sexy girls in their own home

CHEAP CHAT
Live Explicit
Private 1-2-1
Call Now
0909 535 0350

CHEAP CHAT XXXtra's

First Timers: 0909 535 0308 Sub Dom: 0909 535 0312
Asian Black Oriental: 0909 535 0309 Lesbians: 0909 535 0313
Housewives: 0909 535 0310 Gay Chat: 0909 535 0317

Box 1896 WC1N 3XX. 60min Live Calls Recorded

GAY CHAT
From Only **1 1/2p** per min

0870 922 22 990

HOTLINE SEX
Only 9p/min

0871 300 0122
Gay: 0871 300 0311

ADULTS ONLY
0909 432 7000

ADULTS ONLY. Calls Recorded. 45p/min all times. Calls may vary from different networks.

VERY CHEAP LIVE CHAT
Only **35p** per min

0905 462 0065

STRICTLY OVER 18s ONLY. 0905 = 35p/min. Calls are recorded. VTL HELPDISK 0870 345 0220

MALE FORCE GAY CHAT
THE UK'S BUSIEST
More LIVE Men
Online 24/7 Call Now!
08718 730 700

CHEAP CHAT
THE BEST CHAT AT THE RIGHT PRICE!
09055 155 156

Call Me At Home
0207 795 9000

HARD PHONE SEX
NEW
10p per min

0871 550 1700
GAY: 0871 550 1661

FREE
LOCAL WOMEN GAGGING FOR IT
TXT LOCAL TO 89999

09066 41 41 30

LIVE CHAT!
only **10p** per min

0871 271 4444

0871 010p/min. 18+. FUL. 0870 Standard BT rates

Hot Gay Chat
from 2p/min!

0870 050 3400

Hot Gay Chat
only **10p** per min

0871 224 63 95
0871 224 63 96
0871 224 63 97
0871 224 63 98
0871 224 63 99

or text STAR to 69005
1200h-11.55p. Texts only. 18+.

TXt CHAT
FREE 4 WOMEN
FREE 2 REGISTER
PLUS NO CHARGE 25p/ANALYST

Text: STAR TO 69300
1200h-11.55p. Texts only. 18+.

TEXT CHAT & DATE
With genuine guys & girls
from **10p** per min

Men Text 'mstar' to 88109
Women Text 'wstar' to 88109
Gay Text 'gstar' to 88109

HOT SEX TEXT
TXT: STAR & AGE
TO: 89433

OLD LADIES
OVER 40'S
TALK DIRTY
0906 736 6802

CHAT OR DATE
from only **10p** per min

WOMEN: 0825 222 0845
MEN: 0870 345 0181
GAY: 0870 345 0265

FREE SEX TXT
txt FREE
to: 89995

Call Me
Live 1-2-1 Girls
only **45p** per min

09056 600 601
69777

Call Me
Live 1-2-1 Girls
only **45p** per min

09056 600 601
69777

LIVE CHAT WITH HOT GIRLS FOR ONLY 10p
per min

08714 71 61 81

XXX ADULT EXPLICIT LIVE CHAT
only **10p** per min

0871 550 0419
GAY 0871 550 0426

FIX A HOT DATE IN YOUR AREA!
1,000'S OF GIRLS AND GUYS ARE WAITING TO TEXT YOU. SOME TEXTING IN YOUR AREA!
GUYS TEXT BOY GIRLS TEXT GIRL
to **89112**
txt: ESTHER 017 62 0212

DON'T TALK, JUST LISTEN
0909 771 2025

Local Wild Dates
only **10p** per min

Star & Age
txt: STAR & AGE to 89433

MEN WANTED TONIGHT
Womens HOME TEL ON LINE
18+ girls
25+ Women
18+ Ladies
Northern girls
Midland girls
Southern girls
Mature Ladies
Party chat

HOW LONG CAN YOU LAST?
DON'T TALK JUST LISTEN!
0909 771 2015

121 CHAT LIVE GIRLS
ONLY 10p/min!
08714 714 814

OLD LADIES
OVER 40'S
TALK DIRTY
0906 736 6802

CHAT OR DATE
from only **10p** per min

WOMEN: 0825 222 0845
MEN: 0870 345 0181
GAY: 0870 345 0265

30 SEC RELIEF
NO NEED TO TALK
0909 771 2031

CHEAP CHAT
10p per min
FAST & FUN
GET 1-2-1
08717 123 900

XXX ADULT EXPLICIT LIVE CHAT
only **10p** per min

0871 550 0419
GAY 0871 550 0426

LIVE CHAT
GET IT ON!
STRICTLY 4 ADULTS
CHAT TO SEXY GIRLS IN THEIR OWN HOME
09081 410 210

I'LL BE BACK SAYS FALLON 200 up and off to US

by PETER THICKETT

KIEREN FALLON insisted yesterday that he is not turning his back on his riding career in Britain and plans to return in the spring after a spell in the United States.

The six-times champion, who lost his title to Frankie Dettori this season, will jet off to Florida on Boxing Day.

He has been booked to ride for trainer Pat Byrne in the Tropical Park Derby at Calder on New Year's Day and plans to ride regularly at Gulfstream Park.



ON HIS TRAVELS: Fallon

Looking forward to it. "I want to get the confidence I had before I picked up the 21-day ban at Lingfield (after his controversial short-head defeat on Ballinger Ridge in March). "It will be a great experience - I learned a lot when I went to California before. "No European jockey has gone out there and made it. They have gone to Hong

Kong and Dubai, but not to America, but I hope to stay three months."

Asked when he would be back, he added: "I am not turning my back on Britain. I have some very good horses to ride and plan to be back in April - the season doesn't really start until then. I hope to ride for Sir Michael (Stoute, for whom he won the Derby on North Light in June), as long as he will have me."

Board and Motivator were very good to me this year and I am looking forward to riding them again, and I am determined to get the jockeys' championship back, too."

Fallon reached 200 on Mistral Sky when deputising for the sick Franny Norton and he was loudly cheered back into the winner's enclosure where he posed for photographs with the Northampton Town soccer team, who were having their Christmas party.

WINNERS AND PRICES

LINGFIELD

12.10 (Imf. 4). TEE JAY KASIDY (C Pauling) 11-10 fav; 2. Marlie O Mackay 9-1; 3. Bulawayo (R Hughes 20-1). 1/21. 21. 11 ran. J C Poulton, Newmarket.
Tote: £1.60; pl £1.10, £2.30, £3.20.
exacta: £8.10, csf: £5.65. NR: Labelled With Love withdrawn, deduction of 25p in the £ on all bets.
12.40 (6f). 1. LONG WEEKEND (S Whitworth 5-1). 2. Vendors Mistake (R Hughes 5-1). 3. Doctor Dennis (D R McCabe 11-1).
Tote: £2.10; pl £1.20, £1.10, £1.10. 11 ran. D Shaw, Newmarket.
Tote: £4.40; pl £1.50, £1.30, £2.60.
exacta: £33.30, csf: £29.65. NR: Cargo.
1.10 (7f). 1. ARNIE DE BURGH (T P Quayle 2-1). 2. Dudley Docker (Dane O'Neill 5-4 fav). 3. Aggravation (R Hughes 10-1).
Tote: £2.10; pl £1.20, £1.10, £1.10. 11 ran. D Daly, Newmarket.
Tote: £2.10; pl £1.20, £1.10, £1.10. 11 ran. D Daly, Newmarket.
exacta: £6.00, csf: £4.77.
1.40 (Imf 2f). 1. TASNIEF (Dane O'Neill 11-4 fav). 2. Margery Daw (T P Quayle 3-1). 3. Now And Again (J F McDonald 16-1). 1/21. 61. 13 ran. T D McCarthy, Godstone.
Tote: £2.50; pl £1.30, £1.70, £5.40.

WOLVERHAMPTON

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.
1.30 (Imf 1f). 1. DAGOLA (D Fox 6-1). 2. J B Stevenson (K Fallon 2-1 fav). 3. Risk Free (C Catlin 7-1). 7/41. 31. 10 ran. C Dwyer, Newmarket.
Tote: £8.50; pl £1.60, £1.20, £1.90.

QUADPOT £21.60

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.

QUADPOT £6.40

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.

QUADPOT £14.80

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.

QUADPOT £14.80

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.

QUADPOT £21.60

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.

QUADPOT £6.40

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.

QUADPOT £14.80

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.

QUADPOT £14.80

1.00 (Imf 1f). 1. TRUCKLE (J Fanning 5-1). 2. Zalluna (N Mackay 7-4 fav). 3. Mr Rein (S W Kelly 22-1). 1/41. 3/1. 12 ran. C Fairhurst, Middleham.
Tote: £4.20; pl £1.20, £1.20, £6.70.
exacta: £8.30, csf: £10.71. NR: Dizzy Future.
Dizzy Future withdrawn, deduction of 10p in the £ on all bets.

WIN £1000'S WITH FOOTBALL'S NO.1 FANTASY GAME

could be your turn next.

The next update will be next Thursday when we'll print the cumulative, as well

methods which include a full social diary for his players

SUPER League newcomers Leigh

club to attract such a major sponsor for its inaugural year in Super League."

He said: "You can get stale doing the same thing."

BASINGSTOKE have given Brian Worrall a month's contract after he

his own from former Bears star Sterling Davis tied the Brighton, while the Eagles face holders Chester.

SCOREBOARD

Towers await the winners of next Wednesday's game between Plymouth and Brighton, while the Ex-

victory after seamer stuns the Proteas

IS BOK IN BUSINESS



HEAD BOY: Simon Jones is mobbed by his England colleagues after bowling Thami Tsolekile

Shaun Pollock's pad. *Andrew Hall just kept out Jones' hat-trick ball but 10 overs later he outwitted young wicketkeeper Thami Tsolekile with a slower ball which clipped the rookie's off-stump.*

Then he grabbed his fourth wicket with another lbw decision, this time against Proteas quickie Makhaya Ntini, while South Africa's demise was complete two overs later when Hall was ludicrously run out off a no-ball after

taking on Graham Thorpe's throw from the deep. But any thought of England having an easy time as they chased the 142 to win was soon dispelled.

Fortunate

First, Marcus Trescothick fell to the first delivery of the innings, edging Pollock behind to Tsolekile off the toe-end of his bat. Then Butcher was fortunate not to follow from the very next delivery as the whole South Africa side went up for leg before. But,

just as in the first innings, England's No.3 was out to a poor stroke soon after when he chased a wide one from Ntini and edged to Smith's safe hands at first slip.

That was 11-2 and England's position was looking dicey.

But the composed Vaughan teamed up with Strauss to defy South Africa for 52 minutes, until the captain got a brute of a delivery from young fast bowler Dale Steyn which swung into him and then

seamed away to remove his off-stump.

Thorpe then came to the crease alongside assured opener Andrew Strauss, who added an unbeaten 51 to his first-innings century.

SCOREBOARD

PORT ELIZABETH: England with 7 second-innings wickets standing, need a further 49 runs to win.

ENGLAND: First Innings 425 (A Strauss 126, M Butcher 79)

Second Innings
Trescothick c Tsolekile b Pollock..... 0
Strauss not out..... 51
Butcher c Smith b Ntini..... 0
Vaughan b Steyn..... 23
Thorpe not out..... 4
Lbws not..... 4

Total (3 wks, 31 overs)..... 93
Fall: 0, 11, 50.

Bowling: Pollock 7-2-22-1, Ntini 6-1-16-1, Hall 9-1-14-0, Steyn 4-1-15-1, Smith 5-0-23-0.

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings 337 (H Dippenaar 110, J Rudolph 93)

Second Innings
(Overnight: 99-2)
Smith c S Jones b Flintoff..... 55
Kallis lbw S Jones..... 61
Dippenaar b Giles..... 10
de Bruyn c Trescothick b Flintoff..... 19
Pollock c G Jones b S Jones..... 0
Hall run out..... 17
Tsolekile b S Jones..... 4
Ntini lbw S Jones..... 4
Steyn not out..... 2
S4 lbw w1 nb6 pens 5..... 19

Total (69.1 overs)..... 229
Fall (cont): 152, 168, 201, 201, 217, 218, 224.

Bowling: Giles 15-2-39-2, Hoggard 12-2-38-1, Harrison 14-1-54-0, Flintoff 15-2-47-2, S Jones 13-1-39-4.

TEXT MANIACS



Text Dssport followed by a space, then your name and comment, and send to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal mobile operator cost.

☐ NOTHING in text maniacs off Blues for months now suddenly loads last week. bruce out savage out 1 game changes the lot. jason A.V.F.C.

☐ To hoggy. Stockport aint in manchester its in cheshire as 4 mcfc daz dnt make me laff u blues r parttime clowns.

Dave moston.
☐ To the latics fan its 1st rate sport in wigan,as u can c we've already sold over 6000 season tickets with 2 months to start of super league.

carl aka marra.
☐ all mackems are bin-men and all smoggies are kerb crawlers!

geordies rule, howay toon! Geordie Loyal.
☐ N e other blades think pigs n rotherham shud merge cud call em Porkham F.C. **Aaron, Laughin Blade.**

☐ i'm a fellow Wiganer but get real this town Luv rugby and that will never change even if u were in prem. **rugby Lge fan.**

☐ 2 ste wafc. come 2 hull and call us near-derthal u football nancy-boy forklift phil.

☐ HAPPY XMAS 2 FOOTY FANS 1 AND ALL XCEPT GAZ AT TRFC HE WILL B A NOBBY NO MATES TART WOTEVA THE TIME OV YEAR CHEERS. **JOANIE EFC.**

☐ ive only been 1 game this season but keano is the king red army **roy the red Hampshire.**

☐ wen woz last time mackems in europe, jealousy is an awful thing. **richie BORO.**

☐ something tells me the mags 50 year wait will go on. well done souness. **BORO BOB.**

☐ wots all this rubbishish ova ull never walk alone. remember the 1 game after hillsboro celtic v liverpool emotional. **joe.**

☐ SAILOR BOY! Paul plymouth. SORT UR HEAD OUT RUGBY LG FASTA & BETA DAN UNION BY FAR. **TINKA ST.HELENS.**

☐ why do teams like charlton, fulham etc bring about 800 fans to man city but take over 3000 to man utd? Goes to show all cockneys luv man u! **deano mcfc.**

☐ callum The reason liverpool n celtic sing u'll never walk alone is cos there all Irish tramps. **S.U.F.C.**

☐ stuart pearce for forest job. he is the only man who cares. forest4ever. **Brian. Nott.m.**

☐ Mojo u wont b sayin poor old Man City on derby day when we rag u red scum AGAIN. **Walkerchild.**

☐ To browny of sunderland. We ended up at newcastle didnt know there was another club up there. **fuzzie whufc.**

☐ Get rid of Souness or he will kill us just like he did to Blackburn. Bring back Keegan. **Mushy. Nufc.**

☐ to all geordie scum you should have stuck with the old man. **ward safe.**

☐ newcastle you're not very good. ftm. **JIMMY SAFC.**

☐ 35,000 against pompey and the scousers want a 60,000 stadium. get some night flights from oslo and you might have a chance. Chelsea boys - local and loyal. **TIM L.**

☐ stan ternent, we can't understand him but we're still staying up. c'mon gills. **big eric.**

me up

get at least that far ahead to put some serious pressure on England.

"We haven't played anything like as well as we would have liked and we have still competed.

"We'll be fighting, there are still 49 runs to get - and I'm sure some of the guys will open the curtains in the morning to see if it's still raining!"



KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES: Simon and Geraint (left)

GET THE MAGAZINE THEY TRIED TO BAN



All 100% Genuine Pictures Revealed Inside



ONLY £1

AT YOUR LOCAL NEWSAGENTS NOW FOR

The famous and rich - without a stitch!



WIN tickets to see Newcastle v Arsenal

YOUR football-mad Daily Star has teamed up with our pals at Lucozade Sport to offer a really juicy prize.

We're offering **TWO** lucky readers the chance to win a pair of hospitality tickets for next Wednesday's cracking clash between Newcastle and Premiership champions Arsenal.

Courtesy of Lucozade Sport, our lucky winners and friends will experience a fantastic hospitality package in the New Magpie Suite at St James's Park.

For a chance to win, just answer this question: **In what year did Arsenal beat Newcastle in the FA Cup final?**

Then telephone your answer to **0905 072 1638**, not forgetting to include your name, address and daytime phone number. Or text



MATCH followed by your answer, name and details to **88833**. Calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline (ave call length 90 seconds).

Texts cost £1.50 per message received plus your usual text tariff. Winners will be selected at random from all entries received by noon today. Normal Star rules apply.

SERIOUSLY football

Carr's drive for England

I'LL KNOW SVEN IT'S RIGHT

PICK MICK: But Carrick is happy to wait for his recall

by DAVID WOODS

MARTIN JOL may be tipping Michael Carrick for England – but the Spurs midfielder insists an international return is not even on his mind.

Dutchman Jol has claimed Carrick has what it takes to play the holding midfield role for England.

The Spurs boss said: "Michael's one of the most complete midfield players I have seen in my life."

"He can pass the ball, he is skilful, he works for the team and closes people down."

"I heard in the past he was maybe considered as a luxury player but from what I've seen of him, he is a real Tottenham player with a top mentality."

Carrick, 23, picked up the last of his two caps in a friendly defeat to Holland more than three years ago, ironically at White Hart Lane.

Since then the former West Ham star has disappeared off the international map.

But following the resignation of Jacques Santini, Carrick – a £2.75m buy from the Hammers – has flourished under Jol, who has inspired a Tottenham revival.

Praise

Yet despite Jol's praise, Carrick insists he is still off his best and revealed he hadn't even been aware England boss Sven Goran Eriksson was at White Hart Lane on Saturday to see Tottenham thump Southampton 5-1.

Carrick said: "I just played my normal game and hopefully the right people will see the right things."

"Getting back into the England set-up hasn't been too much in my mind. I've just been wanting to do well and get a bit of confidence."

"Hopefully, if I do that, I can start thinking about England."

"But for now, I just want to help get some results for Tottenham and improve."

"It's great when the gaffer has belief in you. It gives you a lot more confidence and I've much more responsibility on my shoulders now."

"Hopefully, I can thrive on that and it'll make me a better player. I don't think I'm back to my best – there's still a lot of room for improvement."

"I always want to do better. I don't think you'll ever be perfect as a footballer."



Vid back blow

HIGH-FLYING Middlesbrough could be without star striker Mark Viduka over the festive period.

Steve McClaren's side face Birmingham and Norwich before a Riverside showdown with Manchester United.

But Viduka is struggling after he injured his back during Saturday's 3-0 win over Aston Villa, which strengthened Boro's hold on fifth place.

The Aussie was forced off at half-time and with the hip injury which ruled him out for a month earlier this term still causing discomfort, the odds are against McClaren being able to field his first-choice strikeforce.

ASPHALT
URBAN GT™

"Asphalt is shaping up to be one of the most refreshingly playable mobile games to date and a terrific exercise in reflex-driven action."

GameSpot

Tear up the streets in Asphalt: Urban GT™
Try it on your N-Gage™ game deck with special features.

Play with up to 4 via Bluetooth connection in this dream car racing game with real brands and models in real locations around the world. Drive fast, take risks and earn money to buy new cars and customise them. Check out the 3D graphics, the true high speed feeling, 1st and 3rd person views and visual and performance tuning.

Wireless multiplayer gaming on the pocket-sized N-Gage game decks.

n-gage.com

N-GAGE anyone anywhere
NOKIA

Copyright © 2004 Nokia. All rights reserved. Nokia, N-Gage and N-Gage QD are trademarks or registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation. © 2004 Gameloft. All Rights Reserved. Gameloft, Gameloft logo and Asphalt: Urban GT are trademarks of Gameloft in the US and/or other countries. Aston Martin, Vanquish and DB9, and the Aston Martin logo are trademarks owned and licensed by Aston Martin Lagonda. © 2004 Aston Martin Lagonda. Audi - trademarks, design patents and copyrights are used with the approval of the owner AUDI AG. Ford Motor - Ford Oval and nameplates are registered trademarks owned and licensed by Ford Motor Company. General Motors - General Motors Trademarks used under license to Gameloft. Jaguar, XJR and the Leaper Device are trademarks owned and licensed by Jaguar Cars Limited. © 2004 Jaguar Cars Limited. Lamborghini - The trademarks, copyrights and design rights in and associated with Lamborghini and Murciélago, Murciélago R-GT, Gallardo, and Gallardo Police car are used under license from Lamborghini. Art/Marca S.p.A., Italy. Lotus - Lotus Edge and associated logos, emblems and body designs are trademarks owned and licensed by Lotus Group. Lotus and the Lotus logo are trademarks owned and licensed by Lotus Group. Morgan Motors - Morgan Aero and body designs are trademarks and/or intellectual property of Morgan Motors and are used under license to Gameloft. Nissan - Official Nissan Product. Nissan, 350Z, Skyline, and associated symbols, emblems and designs are trademarks of Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. and used under license to Gameloft. Saleen - Saleen and Saleen® 57™, its vehicle model names and their proprietary designs are registered trademarks of Saleen, Inc. used under license to Gameloft. Shelby - Shelby® and Shelby GT-500™ are registered trademarks and/or intellectual property of Carroll Shelby Licensing Inc. and are used by Gameloft under license. TVR - TVR, Sagaris and body designs are registered trademarks and/or intellectual property of TVR Engineering Limited and are used under license to Gameloft. Volkswagen - Volkswagen trademarks, design patents and copyrights are the intellectual property of Volkswagen AG and are used under license to Gameloft. Bluetooth is a trademark of Bluetooth SIG, Inc.

SERIOUSLY football

Double blunder turns Liam from hero to zero

Information Station



TOP MAN: Jerome Thomas blasts Charlton into the lead against Fulham last night

PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	18	13	4	1	37	8	43
Arsenal	18	11	5	2	45	22	38
Everton	18	11	4	3	21	14	37
Man Utd	18	9	7	2	28	13	34
Middlesbrough	18	9	5	4	32	22	32
Liverpool	18	8	4	6	28	20	28
Charlton	18	8	3	7	21	28	27
Tottenham	18	7	4	7	21	18	25
Aston Villa	18	6	7	5	22	22	25
Man City	18	6	5	7	22	18	23
Bolton	18	6	5	7	26	26	23
Portsmouth	18	6	5	7	23	25	23
Newcastle	18	5	6	7	29	35	21
Birmingham	18	4	8	6	18	19	20
Fulham	18	5	3	10	20	30	18
Blackburn	18	2	9	7	16	30	15
Norwich	18	2	9	7	17	32	15
Crystal Palace	18	3	5	10	19	29	14
Southampton	18	2	7	9	18	31	13
West Brom	18	1	7	10	15	36	10

FOOTBALL

Barclays Premiership

Charlton.....(1) 2 Fulham.....(0) 1

Thomas 27 Radzinski 82

el Karkouri 66 Att: 26,108

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE

NORTH—Postponed: Droydsden v Alfreton.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL: NY Jets 37 Seattle 14, Minnesota 28 Detroit 27, Philadelphia 12 Dallas 7, San Diego 21 Cleveland 0, Kansas City 45 Denver 17, Houston 24 Chicago 5, Buffalo 33 Cincinnati 17, New Orleans 21 Tampa Bay 17, Jacksonville 28 Green Bay 25, Arizona 31 St Louis 7, Oakland 40 Tennessee 35, Indianapolis 20 Baltimore 10.

BASKETBALL

BBL CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	L	Pts
Brighton	13	11	2	22
London Towers	14	11	3	22
Sheffield	15	11	4	22
Chester	14	10	4	20
Newcastle	13	8	5	16
Scottish Rocks	15	6	9	12
Milton Keynes	14	5	9	10
Thames Valley	12	4	8	8
Plymouth	12	4	8	8
Leicester	14	3	11	6
Birmingham	14	2	12	4

TODAY'S DIARY

FOOTBALL

Coca-Cola Championship Ipswich v Wigan

Nationwide Conference North: Stalybridge v Redditch.

Ryman—Prem: Billerica v Slough.

Associate Members Trophy, Group B: Wembley v Flackwell Heath.

Southern—Prem: Histon v Tiverton.

Menthy Tyddi v Stamford. Div 1 West: Mangotsfield v Bedworth.

UniBond—President's Cup, 1st Rnd: Kendal v Bishop Auckland.

Moore & Co Solicitors NW Counties—Challenge Cup, 2nd Rnd: Atherton LR v Glossop.

Ridgions Eastern—Prem: Soham v Halstead.

Screwfix Direct—Prem: Corsham v Bishop Sutton.

Travel Factory Midland Alliance: Cradley v Bridgnorth, Oadby v Coalville.

BASKETBALL

BBL Championship: Brighton v Newcastle (7pm), Thames Valley v Plymouth (8pm).

CRICKET

First Test—Day 5 of 5: South Africa v England (Port Elizabeth, 8am).

YESTERDAY'S SPORTWORD

ACROSS: 1 Fletcher, 7 Owens, 8 Ryder, 9 Ledley, 10 Graf, 12 Hart, 14 Steffi, 17 Rayer, 18 Leigh, 19 Slattery.

DOWN: 1 Field, 2 Easter, 3 Cork, 4 Ender, 5 Coulthard, 6 Griffiths, 11 Stolle, 13 Royal, 15 Fairly, 16 Drut.

5 FOR FUN ANSWERS

1 Ernie Els, 2 Danny Wilson, 3 Germany, 4 Cheltenham, 5 October.

EVERY ROSE HAS ITS THORN

LIAM ROSENIOR last night found out how quickly you can turn from hero to villain in the sometimes cruel game of football.

Eight days ago the Fulham youngster was man of the match after making a highly impressive debut in the 1-1 draw with Manchester United at Craven Cottage.

Sky TV cameras were live at The Valley to zoom in on the 20-year-old again last night – but this time for dropping a double clanger that handed Charlton victory.

The first moment the midfielder will want to forget came in the 27th minute as Charlton took the lead through their own promising youngster Jerome Thomas.

After Danny Murphy laid the ball out on the right to Shaun Bartlett, the South African looked up and sent over a speculative cross.

Control

Rosenior's first mistake was to leave Thomas unmarked at the far post. His second was to launch himself awkwardly at the floating ball in an attempt to deflect it away.

The result was what can only be described as an 'air' header as he missed the ball completely, allowing it to land at the feet of Thomas.

The former Arsenal kid looked a bit surprised, but managed to control and sidefoot past Edwin Van der Sar to claim his second goal of the

by DAVID WOODS

Charlton.....	2
Fulham.....	1

season. Curiously, winger Thomas opted to 'do a Thierry Henry' – standing still and looking glum, rather than celebrate in the fashion you'd have expected.

It got worse for Rosenior in the second half, when he was responsible for letting Charlton in again. He was booked in the 66th minute after tugging back Thomas on the left edge of the Fulham penalty area.

Murphy swung over the resulting free-kick, and Moroccan ace Talal El Karkouri leapt up to head the ball past Van der Sar.

Charlton knew a victory would take them to seventh, a nice position to be at Christmas for manager Alan Curbishley, who earlier in the season had endured a spell in which just one point was picked up out of 12.

But 12 points from the last 18 before last night lifted spirits and there was an air of confidence about The Valley at kick-off.

However, it was Fulham who had the ball in the net first last night.

But Andy Cole's 16th-minute effort was disallowed as he was offside when he collected midfielder Steed Malbranque's poked throughball. A

minute later El Karkouri rose well to connect with Murphy's corner, but his header was well grasped by Van der Sar in the Fulham goal.

Seconds later Papa Bouba Diop – scorer of their spectacular late equaliser a week earlier against United – was booked for kicking the ball away after Charlton were awarded a free-kick.

Hope

The visitors failed to threaten seriously in a dire first half, when Sylvain Legwinski's long-range drive, straight at Dean Kiely, was their only murmur of excitement.

But there was some hope for Fulham eight minutes from time.

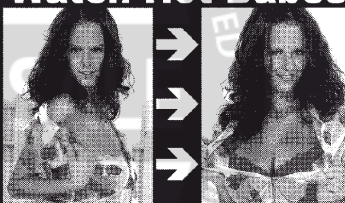
From a corner, Brian McBride's header was cleared off the line by Murphy, but it fell to sub Tomasz Radzinski, who poked the home.

It was not enough, though, and Rosenior's mistakes ended up costing Fulham dearly.

TEAMS

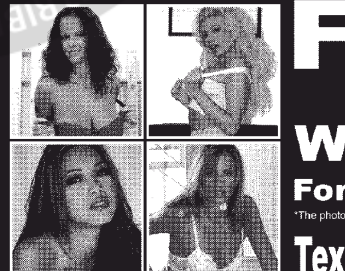
CHARLTON: Kiely, Young, El Karkouri, Fortune, Hreidarsson, Rommedahl, Kishishev, Holland, Murphy, Thomas, Bartlett. Subs: Ewell, Jeffers, Andersen, Konchesky, Hughes. **FULHAM:** Van der Sar, Rosenior, Rehman, Pearce, Bocanegra, Diop, Legwinski, Pembridge, Malbranque, Cole, McBride. Subs: Flitney, Volz, Knight, John, Radzinski. **REF:** S Bennett.

ANIMATIONS
Watch Hot Babes



1 FREE
For Every reader
Text: SLIDE To: 82333

*The animation is free except your standard network charges.



FREE
Sexy
Wallpaper
For Every Reader
Text: STAR To: 82333

MOBILE GAMES
Choose from 100's of games



View the FREE WAP MENU NOW!



Text: **SPORT**
To: **88055**
NO PLAY - NO PAY

The images are 16:9 (widescreen) and are not standard screen size (4:3). Any screen that supports a given animation will be charged its own standard network network rates. Prices are subject to a small amount of change without notice. We cannot accept liability for damage or loss of data incurred as a result of customer's use of our services, including having our computer services. For SEXY WALLPAPER, please send your mobile number, valid credit card number and 10p to: ANIMATIONS@star.com or 020 8233 3333. You will receive 1 free animation with your first 10p credit. On wallpapergames.com you will find a full range of games. Any games purchased are charged at the advertised rate on the day. You need a credit card to receive wallpapergames.com. To subscribe to our SEXY WALLPAPER, please send your mobile number, valid credit card number and 10p to: STAR To: 82333. Customer support 0800 500251.

SOCCER LINES

■ SCOTLAND have slipped to 86th place in the latest FIFA world rankings – meaning they are now behind the likes of Burkina Faso, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

■ THE FA have launched an investigation into the violent scenes which marred the 1-1 draw between Leeds and Millwall on Sunday after West Yorkshire Police made 10 arrests due to fighting inside Elland Road.

■ BLACKBURN'S Craig Short looks certain to be ruled out of the festive programme because of a hamstring injury he suffered against Everton at the weekend.

■ BARNSELEY'S Nicky Wroe has signed a new two-and-a-half year deal to keep him at Oakwell.

■ HUNGARIAN international Zsolt Baranyos has confirmed he is still poised to sign for Leeds.

■ READING striker Dave Kitson has been ruled out for up to two months after damaging his knee.

■ DARREN POWELL has ended his loan spell with West Ham and could be back in the Crystal Palace squad for the Boxing Day game against Portsmouth.

■ SHEFFIELD United manager Neil Warnock has turned to Hearts marksman Mark de Vries, 29, in his search for a new striker.

■ BURY striker David Nugent, who has bagged 13 goals for the League Two outfit this season, has been offered a new deal to keep him at Gigg Lane, following interest from Wigan, Crewe and Preston.

■ NEW Oxford boss Ramon Diaz has taken his sons Emiliano, 21, and 18-year-old Michael on trial.

■ BARNSELEY chairman Peter Ridsdale has agreed to step down following a financial disagreement with some of his board members.

■ TOTTENHAM will sign David Limbersky, 21, from Czech side Viktoria Plzen on loan, with the option of a permanent switch at the end of the season.

SERIOUSLY football

Transfer window is crucial for

SOUEY

■ ANFIELD AGONY: A grim-faced Souness after Newcastle's latest flop at Liverpool on Sunday



FREDDY SHEPHERD will resist the calls of a minority of the Toon Army to axe Graeme Souness, just three months into his Newcastle reign.

And justifiably so. For despite the Geordies' alarming slump down the table – culminating in Sunday's depressing 3-1 defeat at Liverpool – only the Scot's most blinkered critics would deny him the chance to spend the cash the Newcastle chairman has promised when the transfer window reopens next week.

Souness' appointment as Sir Bobby Robson's successor came too late for him to bring in his own players, leaving him to work with the squad he inherited.

Fans are split on who is to blame for Newcastle's current problems. Those who want the manager sacked are probably matched by those who claim Robson is primarily responsible for the club's predicament.

But most hold views somewhere in between.

Though few had Souness at the top of their wanted list in the autumn, they are prepared to reserve judgement until the end of the season, when he has had the chance to stamp his own identity on the squad. What is not in question is that Newcastle have gone backwards under his management. Again, opinion is divided, with some insisting poor results at the end of last season prove the decline had already set in.

Optimism

The anti-Souness camp counter by claiming bizarre team selections, bad tactics and a confrontational management style are to blame for the current mess.

And the former Liverpool boss's own words hardly help his cause, because he has become a victim of his own optimism.

On arrival at St James' Park, he announced he was the luckiest man in the world to inherit a squad bristling with talent, claiming Robson had done such a good job that only fine-tuning was required.

The soundbites gradually became less upbeat, with Souness saying – not without good cause – that with such glaring defensive inadequacies, he was working with a horribly ill-balanced squad.

And while he has not gone so far as to openly criticise the man he replaced, last week he came close by arguing that if the squad had been good enough, Robson would still be in charge. Yet the

by IAN MURTAGH

Souness era started with a nine-match unbeaten run.

But, in hindsight, that early form was misleading, with three UEFA Cup wins against Sakhinin (twice) and Panionios, and Premiership successes over Southampton, West Brom and Manchester City. The 4-3 win over City on October 24 was the Toon's last at St James' Park and it is a worrying statistic that of the five clubs they have beaten in the league, Kevin Keegan's side – in 10th place – are the only one currently in the top half of the table.

Newcastle still see themselves as members of the "Big Five". Yet whenever they have played one of their so-called peers they have lost, often heavily.

Repair

Shepherd is adamant that a club who have become accustomed to competing in Europe cannot afford a season of transition and Souness is under no illusions.

Nevertheless, even tough taskmaster Shepherd must acknowledge that with Newcastle nearer the relegation zone than the top six, the months ahead are more about repair and revival than reward.

Souness has already earmarked Glasgow Rangers' Jean Alain Boumsong and Abdoulaye Meite of Marseille as the two centre-halves he wants to bolster a defence which

SOUEY'S TOON RECORD

Sakhinin (h).....UEFA Cup	W	2-0	Crystal Palace (a).....League	W	2-0
Southampton (a).....League	W	2-1	Sochaux (a).....UEFA Cup	W	4-0
West Brom (h).....League	W	3-1	Everton (h).....League	D	1-1
Sakhinin (a).....UEFA Cup	W	5-1	Chelsea (a).....League	L	0-4
Birmingham (a).....League	D	2-2	Portsmouth (h).....League	D	1-1
Charlton (a).....League	D	1-1	Sp Lisbon (h).....UEFA Cup	H	1-1
Panionios (a).....UEFA Cup	W	1-0	Liverpool (a).....League	L	1-3
Man City (h).....League	W	4-3			
Norwich (h).....Carling Cup	W	2-1			
Bolton (a).....League	L	1-2			
D'Tallisi (h).....UEFA Cup	W	2-0			
Fulham (h).....League	L	1-4			
Chelsea (h).....Carling Cup	L	0-2			
Man United (h).....League	L	1-3			

NEWCASTLE'S FORM THIS SEASON

	P	W	D	L
Overall	21	10	5	6
Premier League	13	4	4	5
League (since Oct 31)	8	1	2	5

Harry's Knapp hand

SOUTHAMPTON boss Harry Redknapp admitted last night he faces the toughest test of his 22-year managerial career to keep his new side in the Premiership. Redknapp cannot wait for the transfer window to open in the New Year, when he hopes to recruit at least five new players.

He said: "I need players in to get us out of this mess. I will have to beg, steal or borrow a few because this group would not even get us out of the Championship.

■ by PETER WHITE

We are in a real dogfight. "I have lots of targets, loads of people in mind who I would like to get – it is just a case of trying to get them without spending any real money."

Difficult

The 5-1 hammering at Tottenham left Saints deep in the relegation mire. Redknapp said: "Our points total of 13 at this stage of the season is pretty

horrendous. To get to 38 points is going to be very difficult. A few other clubs are in a similar position and none of us have averaged a point of game so far.

"It has all come as a bit of a shock because before I got the job I didn't really take too much notice of this club.

"Finding out we might not see defender Michael Svensson again this season because of injury is a massive blow because he is a fantastic player."



UPHILL BATTLE: Harry Redknapp

EXPRESS shopping channel

PROFFESIONAL QUALITY PAINT SPRAYER



- Perfect Painting Every Time
- Electric spray gun for fast and even paint distribution
- 750cl capacity, 0.6mm nozzle

Item no: PH167GH

GREAT VALUE

WAS £29.99

NOW £19.99

SAVE £10

WATCH FROM 8AM TO MIDNIGHT

28 DAYS HOME APPROVAL

DELIVERED DIRECT TO YOUR DOOR

LINES OPEN FROM 8AM TO MIDNIGHT



Order now quoting the item number on



expressshopping.tv



0870 161 66 88



lines open from 8am to midnight



we accept the following credit cards



lines open from 8am to midnight

TUNE IN FOR MORE OF TODAY'S GREAT DEALS ON THE EXPRESS SHOPPING CHANNEL

SKY 636
NTL 637

8AM TO MIDNIGHT - 7 DAYS A WEEK

All products subject to availability. All prices exclude P&P.

Newcastle boss as clouds gather on the Tyne

WON'T BE RUN OUT OF TOON



THEN AND NOW

GRAEME SOUNESS has changed his stance since taking over the Toon hot-seat from Sir Bobby Robson.

Here, *StarSport* traces how the new Toon boss – and his chairman Freddy Shepherd – have gradually attempted to temper remarks made when Souness was appointed back in September.

SEPTEMBER 13

SOUNESS: "This is the best job I have ever had in terms of quality of players and I feel a very lucky man."

"Usually when you get a big job like this, the club has problems. But it's different here because everything is in place."

"It is certainly not a club in turmoil because Sir Bobby Robson has left it in great shape."

"I have inherited a talented squad which just needs a bit of fine-tuning."

SHEPHERD: "This season is not about transition. There is plenty to play for and that is not negotiable."

"All the ingredients are in place to win something. Hopefully, that will happen under Graeme."

OCTOBER 20

SOUNESS: "Things have got to change. This club is making headlines for the wrong reasons and that has to be addressed."

"From the outside looking in, there were obvious problems here. There were too many non-football issues and it cannot go on."

DECEMBER 15

SOUNESS: "If this squad was good enough, the last manager would still be here."

"I'm left using square pegs in round holes but this is the squad I inherited."

"I haven't suddenly woken up this morning realising what we need."

"Stats tell us where our strengths and weaknesses are."

"It doesn't take a genius to work out where we need to improve."

SHEPHERD: "At the moment our Premiership position is disappointing and we have to improve on that and improve on that we will."

"Graeme knows as well as I do that certain areas of the team need strengthening."

"But he only came into this club in September after the last transfer window had closed, so he has been unable to sign any players."

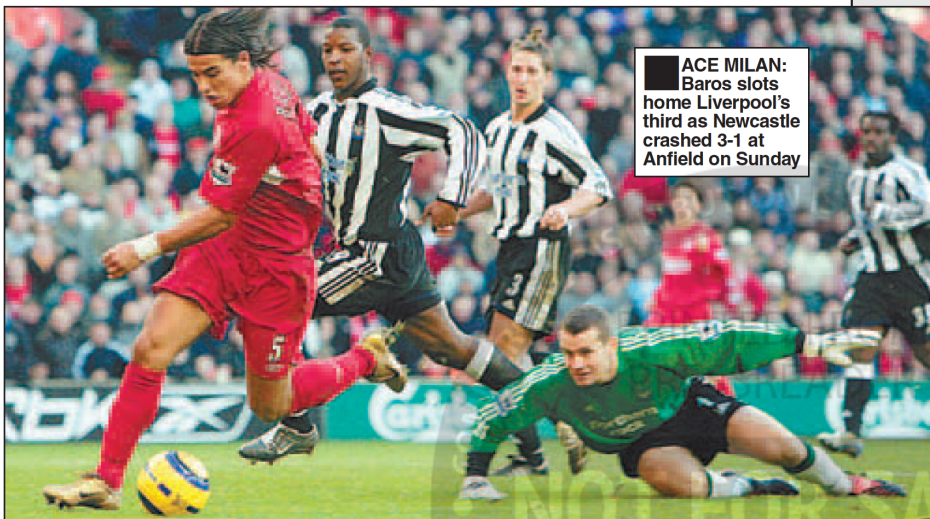
DECEMBER 20

SOUNESS: "We find ourselves in a difficult situation, we have got to stand up and be counted."

"We'll see what we're made of in the coming weeks."

"We're under no illusions as to what is expected of us."

ACE MILAN: Baros slots home Liverpool's third as Newcastle crashed 3-1 at Anfield on Sunday



has creaked badly this season.

Signing Frenchmen for Newcastle is a risky business, however.

Players like David Ginola, Alain Goma, Didier Drogba and Stephane Guivarc'h all left in acrimonious circumstances, while Laurent Robert and Olivier Bernard both look set to

follow in the footsteps of their compatriots.

The odds are stacked against Souness succeeding in his first mission – to bring silverware to St James' Park this season, even though Newcastle should reach the UEFA Cup quarter-finals and are drawn against non-league Yeading in the third round of the FA Cup. But he dare

not fail in his second, which is to strengthen the squad significantly in the New Year.

Robson's transfer record was hit and miss and Souness is still paying the price for some of his misses. But he cannot afford any duds of his own.

The transfer freeze might have hampered him on the pitch but it has protected

him from further criticism off it.

So the jury is out on Souness' Toon prospects, for now.

But if the doom and gloom which has enveloped Tyneside this Christmas has not been swept away by the end of the season, Newcastle may be looking for a third manager inside 12 months.

Zajec all set for Pompey

by PETER WHITE

PORTSMOUTH executive director Velimir Zajec is expected to be reluctantly confirmed as the club's new manager today.

However, Pompey chairman Milan Mandaric admitted last night there was still work to be done to convince the former coach of Panathinaikos to succeed Harry Redknapp – with talks going on late into the night.

Mandaric, who has turned to Zajec after Gordon Strachan decided against a switch to Pompey, said: "There are still some issues to be sorted and I do not want to take advantage of the friendship I have with Velimir."

Agree

"He did not come here to be the manager but at this particular time I am trying to convince him that it would be best for the club."

"If Velimir decides he would rather not be the manager, we shall have to look elsewhere."

"But I am hoping he will agree to it, even if we have to reach a compromise with his appointment."

Al: Let's pair up

by SCOTT COLEMAN

ALAN Mahon is back at Ipswich tonight aiming to keep Wigan on top of the Championship table – but he is still tipping Joe Royle's men for promotion.

Mahon, 26, was a big hit when he spent three happy months on loan at Portman Road last season.

But Royle did not have the cash for a permanent deal and Wigan snapped him up from Blackburn.

Mahon said: "Both clubs have what it takes to win promotion and if I had my way, we will both go up."

Wigan boss Paul Jewell – facing his old mate Royle – said: "Joe's a smashing manager – a wily old fox – and he's got some real good players."

Freddie all-clear

by DANNY FULLBROOK

FREDDIE Ljungberg will be back in action on Boxing Day after his brain scare.

The Swede had to have a brain scan after being hit with a serious bout of migraine.

He was given the all-clear but told he had returned to training too quickly which brought on a second severe headache. But Ljungberg will be back in training today after two weeks out and is in the squad to face Fulham at the weekend.

That is a big boost for Arsene Wenger, who will be without Jose Antonio Reyes for 10 days due a knee injury.

SACCHI MOVES IN

DAVID BECKHAM and Michael Owen could soon be playing under a new boss with Real Madrid set to unveil Arrigo Sacchi today.

The ex-Italian team boss and European Cup winner with AC Milan will be named as the club's new football supremo.

Sources say he will have the same powers as Sir Alex Ferguson at Manchester United – but won't sit on the bench.

SPORTWORD

- ACROSS**
- Chris, Southampton and Northern Ireland defender (5)
 - Cats, Sunderland nickname (5)
 - Ehioqu, Middlesbrough and England defender (3)
 - Granville, Champion Hurdle winner in 1993 (5)
 - John, West Ham United and Ipswich Town manager (5)
 - Dublin, Leicester City's former England striker (4)
 - See 21 across.
 - Carl, Kent, Lancashire and West Indies batsman (6)
 - The Red, Lincoln City nickname (4)
 - D'Oliveira, former England cricket all-rounder (5)
 - John, Sunderland forward, on loan to Leeds United (5)
 - and 11 across. Sport of Belfast Giants (3,6)
 - Rugby's Heineken Cup winners in 1997 (5)
 -, Armstrong, famous US cyclist (5)
- DOWN**
- Gordon, two British golfers identified as Senior and Junior (5)
 - West Brom and Japan forward (7)
 - Richard, former British and European heavyweight champion (4)
 - Wanderers, Premiership club (6)
 - Guevera, Mexican athlete, silver medalist in the women's 400 metres at the Athens Olympics (3)
 - Holmes, athlete who won two Olympic gold medals in 2004 (5)
 - Park, Sunbury-on-Thames race course (7)
 - Law, equestrian gold medalist at the 2004 Olympics (6)
 - Aftab, Leicestershire's former Essex and England batsman (5)
 - Blanco, famous France rugby full-back (5)
 - Murphy, Ireland wing forward who played for the '59 and '66 Lions (4)
 - Lanka, cricket World champions in 1996 (3)

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 51 for Monday's answers.



5 FOR FUN

- Which golfer in 2004 finished second in the Masters and the Open, fourth in the US PGA and ninth in the US Open?
- Who is the former Sheffield Wednesday, Barnsley and Bristol City manager, who has just taken charge of Milton Keynes Dons?
- In which country will football's World Cup Finals be played in 2006?
- Gloucestershire stage an annual cricket festival at a school ground?
- Horse racing's Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe is always held in which month of the year?

ANSWERS: See Page 51

Villa's Parker blow

by DAVE ARMITAGE

DAVID O'LEARY'S hopes of landing Scott Parker in the January transfer window have suffered a setback.

Aston Villa boss O'Leary was preparing a £6m bid for the Chelsea midfielder next month but Parker has suffered a broken metatarsal that looks like keeping him on the sidelines for two months.

Parker was at the top of O'Leary's list of players along with

Southampton's James Beattie and Spurs' Robbie Keane.

The England man, who had come on as a substitute, limped off against Norwich on Saturday complaining of serious pain to the Chelsea physios.

Parker ended up playing out the rest of the match, but was taken for an X-ray at the end where his worst fears were confirmed.

Giggs in a fight over new deal

by BILL THORNTON

RYAN GIGGS is on a collision course with Manchester United over his contract dispute. United have offered the 31-year-old only a one-year extension. Giggs wants two years, taking him to 2008. And he is digging in his heels.

Harry Swales, Giggs' career-long adviser, said last night: "I don't think a one-year extension is enough for someone who has been there for so long and given so much to the club."

"Ryan is fit and so dedicated and 31 is no age at all. You can't buy the experience and enthusiasm he has."

Giggs is United's most decorated player, having been in the first team for 14 seasons and a key part of the success of the Sir Alex Ferguson years.

Although clubs at home and abroad are monitoring the situation, Swales said: "I can't envisage Ryan going anywhere and he doesn't want to go. But I haven't heard anything more since I got a letter from the club a while ago saying they would only offer a 12-month extension. The ball is in their court."

The fact is the club's plc board does not believe in giving extensions of more than one year to players over 30.

● JONATHAN Spector is leaving United on loan — and West Brom are favourites to take him.

Ferguson confirmed yesterday he is letting the young American defender go next month. "We feel he is ready for the challenge."

Former United skipper Bryan Robson asked Fergie several weeks ago — as reported in Starsport — if he could take him.

Dire

Now he is set to get his wish and not a moment too soon for West Brom — battered 4-0 by derby rivals Birmingham on Saturday — are in dire need of some quality at the back.

Meanwhile, Ruud van Nistelrooy's six-week injury lay-off, coupled with Wayne Rooney's penalty miss against Palace, has put Ferguson on the spot.

Van Nistelrooy has taken 29 of the 34 penalties United have had since his transfer from PSV in 2001, scoring 26 of them.

● United have confirmed that American business tycoon Malcolm Glazer has made revisions to the tentative offer to take over the club which was snubbed by chief executive David Gill. But United have stated Glazer's proposition is 'very preliminary' and they will not re-open negotiations until he puts in a definitive proposal.

SERIOUSLY football Ronaldinho sticks the boot in by

RON FACTFILE

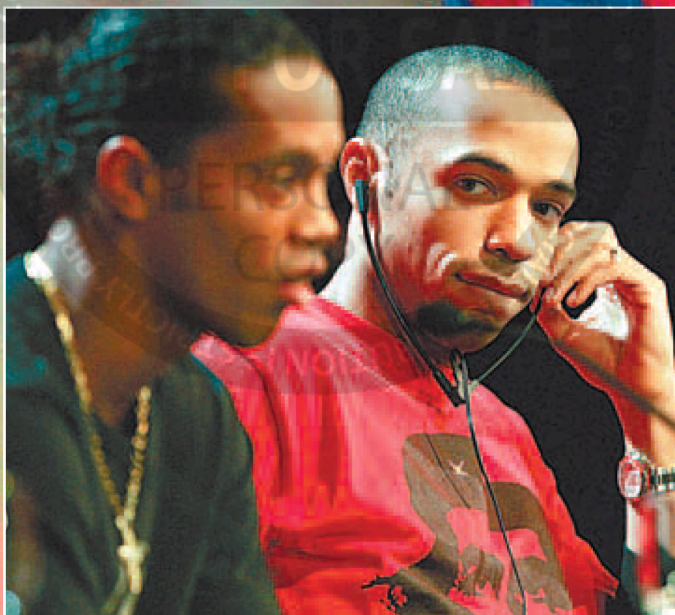
1980: Born Ronaldo de Assis Moreira in Porto Alegre, Brazil on March 21.
1998: Signs for his hometown club Grêmio.
1999: June: Makes international debut for Brazil against Latvia, and goes on to announce himself to the world in the Copa America with a stunning solo goal against Venezuela — his first for his country. Brazil go on to win the tournament.
2001: January: Makes dream move to Europe to play for Paris Saint Germain.
2002: July: Helps Brazil to World Cup glory in South Korea and Japan, dumping England out in the quarter-final with a free-kick before being sent off on route to the final.
2003: July: Moves to Barcelona for £18m despite the advances of Manchester United.
2004: June: After a hugely successful season, Barca hand Ronaldinho an improved contract which raises his buy-out clause from £66m to £100m after Chelsea reportedly enquire about his services. December 20: Named FIFA's World Player of the Year.

HOW THEY VOTED

1 Ronaldinho (Barcelona & Brazil) 620 points (89 first places, 47 second, 34 third).
2 Thierry Henry (Arsenal & France) 552 pts (73 first places, 42 second, 31 third).
3 Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan & Ukraine) 253 pts (34 first places, 19 second, 26 third).

BRAZIL-IANT:

Samba star Ronaldinho celebrates one of the many goals which have propelled Barcelona to the top of La Liga this season



SO NEAR: Henry eyes up Ronaldinho during yesterday's Press conference

Mour: You're Joaquin

by DAVID WOODS

CHELSEA have pulled out of signing Spanish winger Joaquin after boss Jose Mourinho decided his personality wouldn't fit in.

Starsport can reveal the Portuguese manager runs in-depth checks on the character of any potential signing and wasn't convinced Joaquin was right for the club.

Stickler

Joaquin has a reputation in Spain for enjoying a party and Mourinho — a stickler for good behaviour — has opted not to pursue his interest in the Real Betis star.

A Chelsea source said: "Whoever he buys has to have a good attitude and he's as concerned about the influence they have in the dressing-room as on the pitch."

insisting only Barca could have made him a prize guy

I SNUBBED FERGIE TO BE BEST IN WORLD

RONALDINHO last night insisted his snub by Manchester United and the Premiership was the key reason behind him being crowned FIFA's World Player of the Year.

The Brazilian superstar pipped Arsenal's Thierry Henry and AC Milan striker Andriy Shevchenko to the award in Zurich last night.

And Ronaldinho is adamant that his decision to turn his back on Sir Alex Ferguson and other top managers in favour of a move to Barcelona sent his career soaring.

The 24-year-old was lined up for a big-money move to United but enjoyed the best year of his career at the Nou Camp in 2004 after sending Barca to the top of Spain's La Liga and into the knockout phase of the Champions League.

And he admitted after lifting the award that the decision to turn down United's advances in the summer of 2003 was the key factor.

Choice

"I chose the right team and I feel very happy with my choice," said Ronaldinho, whose freak goal for Brazil dumped England out of the World Cup finals in 2002.

"Every day is a new surprise for me and I am very happy at Barcelona.

"I want to be part of the history at the club in a winning period of time and I feel that era is already well under way now.

"From the first day at Barcelona I knew it was perfect for me. Every day they do something that feels like a surprise. I'm always happy and have never had any doubts."

Ronaldinho became the fourth Brazilian to be named World Player of the Year after Romario, Ronaldo and Rivaldo.

He collected 620 points in the voting – made by coaches and captains of international teams – with Henry on 552 points and Ukraine hotshot Shevchenko on 253.

England coach Sven Goran Eriksson and skipper David Beckham both chose Henry as their man of the year following his goalscoring exploits in Arsenal's 49-game unbeaten run and Premiership title triumph.

But Frenchman Henry was forced to settle for the runner-up spot for a second year in succession having been beaten to the award by international team-mate and Real Madrid star Zinedine Zidane 12 months ago.

Team

Henry was almost prevented from landing in Zurich on Sunday night after arriving late because of delays giving a urine sample following Arsenal's 1-0 win at Portsmouth.

But he made it in time and admitted: "You can never say that you are happy if you don't win,

from **JAMES DOBSON** in Zurich

but there are two tremendous players here.

"When I see Shevchenko playing in Serie A and Ronaldinho playing in Spain they are the guys who get you up on your feet. They are truly great.

"But if you come here two years running that shows great consistency."

"If I had won this I would take it straight back to the dressing room

at Highbury and give it to the team. It is a trophy for the team and I did nothing without my team-mates."

Gunnery boss Arsene Wenger admitted he was disappointed that Henry – who netted 39 times in all competitions for Arsenal last season – had missed out on the top award.

Wenger revealed: "Of course, as Arsenal manager, I feel Thierry should have won. But this takes nothing away from Ronaldinho, who is a spe-

cial player and has had a fantastic 2004.

"Thierry has had another superb year. If you look at the amount of matches he has played in 2004 for France and Arsenal and then you look at his contribution in those matches, it's remarkable.

Special

"Not only does Thierry provide through his goals, but his consistent efficiency in matches and also the amount of assists

he creates as a striker is simply fantastic.

"The quality of his game is why he's so special, not only scoring goals but his overall contribution to the team making him a world-class team player."

"But Ronaldinho's outstanding form – which has helped Barca to the top of La Liga – swung the vote in his favour."

And after lifting the award, Ronaldinho said that his sights are now set on Barca's Champions

League showdown with Chelsea – and that he is not interested in a move to Stamford Bridge.

He said: "I never said that I wanted to play for Chelsea. I'm very happy where I am and want to carry on where I am.

"I hope that we can reach the final of the Champions League. We believe we can but it is a very strong competition."

No British-based player has won the award since its introduction in 1991.

Give us Mor for hitman

by **KEVIN FRANCIS**

LIVERPOOL are on the verge of signing long-term target Fernando Morientes – but they will have to improve their £3.5m bid to land the Real Madrid marksman.

The Merseysiders have placed their offer for 28-year-old Morientes on the table ahead of next month's transfer window but I understand that the Spanish giants are holding out for £7m.

Morientes has been in Liverpool's sights since the summer and Anfield boss Rafa Benitez is still confident of getting the striker who has spent much of this season on the Real Madrid bench following the arrival of Michael Owen.

Officials at Madrid insist they won't budge but Liverpool may improve their offer to around £5m for the star of last season's Champions League.

Fight

Morientes could have moved to Anfield last August as part of the deal which took Michael Owen to the Bernabeu – but decided to stay and fight for his place.

But the early departure of ex-manager Jose Camacho has left Morientes in limbo.

Benitez has made no secret of his admiration for the centre-forward, and he's been the top priority throughout the season.

While Benitez tracks Morientes, young hitman Neil Mellor has told the Liverpool manager 'you can rely on me' in the hope of securing his senior striking place.

Mellor has burst on to the Anfield season in devastating style, scoring five goals in the 11 games in which he has played a part.

Mellor admitted: "I'm conscious January is just around the corner and so it may just be that this is my last chance at Liverpool."

Rovers bid for Robbie

from **Back Page**

him at a time when we need everyone pulling together.

"We might be on cloud nine as we speak after the two derby wins over Aston Villa and West Brom but we are technically still in a relegation dogfight.

"We are six points clear of the relegation zone but anyone who has a bad run can be dragged back into things at the bottom.

"Robbie is also back to his best. He was superb against both Aston Villa and West Brom after a bit of a lull and you don't want to lose him."

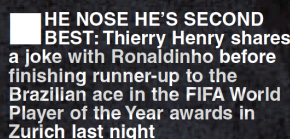
But former Leicester star Savage would be tempted to link up again with former Wales coach Mark Hughes and his No.2 at Ewood Park, Mark Bowen, who also worked with the national squad.



ALL THE BEST: Shevchenko, winner Ronaldinho, and Henry

■ from JAMES DOBSON in Zurich

**Fergie snub made me
World No.1 – P54-55**



Nokia 6230 on Pay Monthly



+ choose extra mins or
500 texts
every month **FREE**

OUR BEST OFFERS. ONLY ONLINE

o2.co.uk/shop
0800 089 0281

On any Pay Monthly Online tariff. Offer available for a limited time, while stocks last, only in the UK on new 12-month contracts. Terms apply. See n2.co.uk/shop for full details.

Published by Express Newspapers, The Northern & Shell Building, Number 10 Lower Thames Street, London. EC3R 6EN. 0671 434 1010. Outside UK +44(0) 870 062 6620. Printed by West Frey Printers Ltd, 235 Waverley Road, London, E14 6NF; Broughton Printers Ltd, Olivers Place, Fulwood, Preston, Lancs; PR2 4U7; Independent Printing Co. Ltd, 1-2 Upper Hatch Street, Dublin 2; D. C. Thomson Ltd, 144 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HZ; South West Wales Publications Limited, Adelaide Street, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA1 1PT; Integral Press SA, Miguel Yuste 26, Madrid, Spain. Deposito Legal no. 10-394-96; Kallithea Group SA, Athens, Greece; Yuma Groep SA, Palma, Mallorca; TE Print SA, Tenerife; HORA, Noord-Brabant, Belgium; Newstax, Bow, Cambridge; Newscasters Cambridge CMA 6PP.



9 770957 623829

NS A Northern and Shell Media Publication

W M B D S A B C D E F G H I J K L P Q R S * T U V

Austria €2.50; Belgium €1.60; Canary Is €1.75; Cyprus Cyp £0.90; Denmark Dkr16.00; France €1.80; Germany €2.00; Gibraltar £ 0.60; Greece €1.80; Italy €1.80; Luxembourg €1.60; Malta Lira 0.53; Netherlands €2.00; Norway Nkr 17.00; Portugal (Cont.) €1.75; Spain €1.75; Switzerland Sfr 2.00; Turkey lira 3,700.000

**GET IT
SAVED**

by GEORGE SCOTT

BLACKBURN have launched their battle for Robbie Savage by faxing a £2.2m bid to Birmingham.

The offer went in yesterday but looks certain to be turned down flat by Birmingham boss Steve Bruce.

The Blues claimed last week that Savage is vital to their chances of continuing to climb up the Premiership table and is going nowhere.

Bruce has been critical of what he believes are behind-the-scenes moves to lure the fiery Welsh midfielder to Ewood Park.

And now Bruce could employ tit-for-tat tactics and make a bid for Rovers striker Paul Dickov, whose family home is still in the Midlands following his transfer from Leicester.

Blackburn are unlikely to give up the fight easily and could step up their move for the 30-year-old when the transfer window opens next month.

Despite Birmingham insisting that Savage is staying put at St Andrews, they could be tempted by an increased offer in the region of £3m.

Clear

Chairman David Gold has made it clear that the Blues do not want to sell Savage considering his recent return to top form, which has helped the club to wins over Aston Villa and West Brom.

Gold insisted: "We want to keep our best players, of which Robbie Savage is one."

"We don't want to sell him. We don't want to lose

Turn to Page 55



SAVAGE: Wanted man

Rovers make £2.2m bid for Robbie